



**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, October 12, 2022, beginning at 6:00 PM in the ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 1450 Gillette Blvd. San Antonio, Texas 78224.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Trustee	Present	Absent	Late Arrival/Departed Early
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Gina Rovello	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Gina Villagomez		X	

Led by Michelle Martinez, Senior Executive Assistant

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- TEXAS PLEDGE
- PRAYER
- CALL TO ACTION

Led by Alexis Castillo, Director of Communications

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Public Hearing to discuss the 2021-2022 FIRST Rating

Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

None

**TEA MONITOR REMARKS**

Dr. Abe Saavedra, TEA Monitor stated: Now you can hear me? Alright, As a matter of fact, I'm gonna take my camera off if you are ok with that because it may give me a better signal for the voice. Ok. I'm not with you this evening. I'm going to join this meeting by Zoom. I had surgery yesterday. I am at home but I am recovering and so there's really no way I could have attended in person but let me also share with you that TEA released their September report that was completed by the Monitor. Mr. Arrellano has a copy of it. As a matter of information, the report format has changed. It actually identifies exit goals, specific goals, that the Board, the district must complete for the in order for the Monitor to exit. And I know Mr. Arrellano may have a few comments about it but Mr. Arrellano, myself, the Superintendent really will work with the Board as a whole so that so that this District can move forward. The Board has done very well the last couple of months. I am hopeful that that will continue. As we move forward, I want every Board member to really consider that everything has to be about student

outcomes. You know, there need, any action the Board takes, needs to resolve in supporting student outcomes as the Board moves forward. I'm going to stop my comments and I will be with you throughout the meeting. Mr. Arrellano those are my comments and thank you for the opportunity.

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

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board and audience regarding welcoming the community. He thanked Alexis Castillo for the new wallpaper on the back wall of the Board room which is of our kids in action. This serves as a reminder for all of us and why we do what we do every day. Mr. Yzaguirre acknowledged National Custodial Day and thanked them for what they do for our campuses daily. He acknowledged that this week is National School Lunch Week and stated that as of today our cafeterias have served 279,501 lunches. Mr. Yzaguirre thanked that team for a job well done. He stated that we are serving 1,200 more breakfast meals than we had in the past. He acknowledged National Principals Month and thanked them for everything they do. Mr. Yzaguirre informed that it was the end of the 9 weeks and grades are finalized tomorrow and that today was SAT testing at the school sites and we tested about 2,000 kids. He stated it ran efficiently and thanked campus admin and testing coordinators. He informed that we have Fall Festivals coming up and invited to community to participate at our schools.

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

Ernesto Arrellano Jr., Board President, addressed the Board and audience regarding the completion of the first grading period. He stated that hard work from key board members and teaching and nonteaching employees has the district trending in a positive direction. He stated that we have 2 new Board members appointed in the Summer who have had an immediate positive impact with how the Board interacts with each other and the Superintendent. Mr. Arrellano stated that the Board is having a once a month meeting with infrequent special called meetings. He stated that Mr. Yzaguirre was elevated to full time Superintendent and that all key administrators have been hired, the budget was adopted on time, and the redistricting process is complete. Mr. Yzaguirre said the TEA Monitor reports have been positive since August. He said a tentative date would be August of next year. He informed that we will have positive news in enrollment and a reeducation in the failure rates. He said that the Board is working with the Superintendent and the shackles have been taken off of administration. He said the Board appreciates Mr. Yzaguirre's back to basics approach is taking hold and look forward to work with him further. He stated that another TEA investigation was launched at the end of last year; the 2 main factors are the inability of the Board to have meetings for 7 consecutive weeks and the "majority" of the Board indicated that South San should have a Conservator. Mr. Arrellano said he has been quiet but not anymore. He stated that there is a common theme when it comes to the purposeful dysfunction of the Board and he stated it is primarily the former District 6 Trustee, Mr. Gilbert Rodriguez. Mr. Arrellano stated that these are facts: he talked down to female Board members in open session and that we all can see this any of you that want to go online and watch those tapes. He restated that he talked down to female Board members in open session of Board meetings and cut their video and audio feeds off as they were making comments or asking legitimate questions. Mr. Arrellano stated that Mr. Rodriguez knowingly spread disinformation to sew mistrust and play one against another. He said that the 2018 TEA investigation concluded that Mr. Rodriguez violated policy and governance by personally contacting vendors as a Trustee without the Superintendent's knowledge. He eventually acknowledged that fact. Mr. Arrellano stated that this is one of the main reasons for TEA inserting Dr. Saavedra as our Monitor last year. He stated that in late Spring to early Fall 2021, the former District 6 Trustee sent an overwhelming amount of correspondence to TEA complaining about his fellow Board members to the point that the TEA sent a cease and desist letter for him to stop. Mr. Arrellano stated let's go over his involvement with the no quorum issue in the TEA's preliminary report; he was the President when Board meetings were called for 7 weeks in a row from late January to March 10th. He stated that during that time the Omicron variant of Coronavirus was still very rampant in San Antonio. He stated that agendas still called for meetings that would have probably lasted beyond midnight, they were long agendas. He said that put the Board at risk of exposure and that also during that time Board policy still stated that the Board members could attend the meetings virtually. He stated that because of that, he knew for himself, as he

had Coronavirus, the original Coronavirus in 2020 and it was pretty bad so he didn't want to get it again stating he chose to do the virtual. He said it was an option and he took it, as he just didn't want to deal with having to be here for up to 7-8 hours also and taking that chance, especially when they go to the back and that's an even smaller room and the risk is even higher. He asked, so what could have been done during those 7 weeks. He said the Board President could have called a meeting, he said before I do that, there were 2 items 2 issues that come up during that time. He said for one, Mr. Yzaguirre was trying to hire key personnel and staff and number two and more important, the districts health insurance balance needed to be adjusted and the only way to do that was for the Superintendent, the only legal way to do that is for the Superintendent to recommend to the Board to take action to allow him to increase that. He said that those are things that didn't get done during those seven weeks to the point that Mr. Yzaguirre as Interim Superintendent, had to take drastic action and do that on his own. Mr. Arrellano asked, did that have to happen and answered no it didn't have to happen. He said one of the things that you could do is back off the lengthy agendas and set just a special called meeting for that one single item, a meeting that would last maybe 30 minutes. He said had that meeting been called, he personally would have been here for that, taking the risk for 30 minutes to get that done and they'd move on. He said that there could have also been another 30-minute meeting for the Superintendent to recommend his hires. He stated that didn't happen either. He asked why we had meetings 7 weeks in a row which caused TEA to hit the district with this. He said that Mr. Rodriguez did all of this that he had properly submitted his resignation in early February, he stated February 8<sup>th</sup> if he remembers correctly. He said in effect the district had a Board President that had resigned and the Board didn't know about it and found out when a separate investigation by the Superintendent and administration was underway and found it in an email that was properly typed out and turned into an administrator. He stated that once that happened, the Board took action and we have Mrs. Cyndi Ramirez as the appointed Board member for District 6. He said the point is, all of this turmoil was happening and it shouldn't have because we should have had Mrs. Ramirez or somebody else back in February but it is what it is. He said let's move on to the 2<sup>nd</sup> thing; the majority of the Board wanting a Conservator. He said during their investigation in June, the TEA conducted interviews with all of the Board members, he said they interviewed him twice and Mr. Yzaguirre. He said that they stated that the majority of the Board was asking for a Conservator. He said that when Mr. Rodriguez was interviewed, as Mr. Arrellano said he has heard all of the recordings, that Mr. Rodriguez did not want a Conservator or a Board of Managers but wanted the district dissolved, he said shut it down were his words. He said this is from an individual that resigned and hid his resignation. He said #2 Trustee Prado resigned because she retired and she asked for a Conservator because she was concerned that if Board leadership changed that we would be taken over by TEA completely. He stated so that's 2, 2 out of the 4 that are not here anymore. He said so then we get down to Trustees Ibarra and Villagomez who are still on the Board. He asked why would it matter if we have a Conservator or not if they've missed more meetings than they have attended. Then he asked where is the majority. He said it's true that the Board was pinned against each other for much of that time through manipulation by some Trustees. He said there has been a sense of relief with the Board and Administration since his replacement has been appointed. He said we have a much more stable and professional Board that is working great together now. He said the last thing this district needs is for TEA to take away local control from the South San community. He said they are making great strides with the help of their Monitor and the September report indicates a preliminary exit around August. He stated that not too long ago they were staring down the barrel of a Board of Managers and they will do whatever they need to do to meet that exit goal. He said to have that ability to be taken away at this time from this Board is suspect at best. He said it is something worth fighting for and that this Board will fight for their local control. He stated that he said suspect because South San is just the latest district of this side of San Antonio on a supposed path to more than just a TEA Monitor. He stated that South Side ISD recently had a Board of Managers and Edgewood ISD as well and Harlandale ISD is currently under a Conservator, now South San, all on this side of 90. He said there is something wrong. He asked would TEA rather see a good story, of a district that is self-correcting, and asked why squash that. He stated this Board expects us to be given the chance to get this right on our own. He stated that they have set

the foundation with our administration led by our blue chip Superintendent. He said leave us be and we will move mountains for our children, he reiterated, just leave us be.

**RECOGNITIONS**

1. Recognition of one of our South San HS Seniors, Hilary Lopez, who was selected to participate in the SA Express-News High School Journalism Program.  
Alexis Castillo, Communications Director, was called to recognize students for their achievements.
2. National Principals Month  
Alexis Castillo, Communications Director, was called to recognize students for their achievements.

**PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS**

1. National Substance Abuse Awareness/Fentanyl Information  
Alexis Castillo, Communications Director, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.
2. September 2022 Financials  
Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.
3. Academic Health Report  
Millicent Marcha, Chief Academic Officer, Joel Gaines, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction, and Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, were called to present and answer questions related to this item.
4. State of Technology  
Raymond Medina, Technology Director, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.
5. Current status of construction projects at West Campus Phase IV and the Veterans Memorial  
Andy Rocha, Executive Director of Operations, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.
6. Report on Board of Trustees Continuing Education Credits for 2021-2022  
Ernesto Arrellano Jr., Board President, 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. Board Meeting Minutes
  - A. September 19, 2022 Regular Called
  2. Memorandum of Understanding between Rise Recovery and SSAISD
  3. MOU between South San Antonio ISD and Brident Dental & Orthodontics
  4. Approve the MOU between Parent/Child Incorporated of San Antonio
  5. Memorandum of Understanding Program Agreement Between South San Antonio ISD and SA Youth
  6. Memorandum of Understanding Program Agreement Between South San Antonio ISD and YWCA of San Antonio
  7. Memorandum of Understanding Program Agreement Between South San Antonio ISD and Bexar County AIM Peer Mediation Program
  8. Approval to join the 791 Purchasing Cooperative
  9. Approval of Accountable Healthcare Staffing agency, RFQ 2022-08  
Mr. Flores moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 –7 & 9 as presented, Mrs. Ramirez seconded and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0 to approve the item as presented. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		

Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Gina Rovello	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		

**CONSENT Item pulled**

**Item #8**

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, was called to present and answer questions related to this item. Mrs. Ramirez moved to approve consent item #8 as presented, Ms. Rovello seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0 to approve the item as presented. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Gina Rovello	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. Update FFAC (LOCAL) Board Policy

Joel Gaines, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mrs. Alderete moved to approve the item as presented, Mrs. Ramirez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Gina Rovello	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		

2. Appoint a Committee To Develop a Local Innovation Plan

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, was called to present and answer questions related to this item. Mrs. Alderete moved to approve the item as presented, Mrs. Ramirez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Gina Rovello	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		

3. Budget Amendment

Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, and Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent were called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mr. Flores moved to approve the item as presented, Ms. Ibarra seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Gina Rovello	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		

Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		

4. Approve the 2022-23 Health Insurance Administrator, and Stop-Loss Provider for SSAISD  
Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

Mr. Arrellano moved to approve the item as presented, Mr. Flores seconded  
Mrs. Alderete made a substitute motion: that we approve with the exception that we do a survey midpoint and from then on and make sure that we get employee input because I just we're basically railroaded here, there is no other, we are railroaded, but that midpoint we have a survey done and that if our employees, I don't care that if only 30 answer, and if 60% of that 30 says no that we go out and look for what we need because we can't we can't just keep doing this. The substitute motion is that we accept the recommendation but to add that there be a survey done midpoint and if the employees are not happy that we begin to seek other insurance, seconded by Mrs. Ramirez  
Amended substitute motion by Mrs. Alderete: my substitute motion is that we accept the recommendation of the Superintendent but at midpoint we do a survey and upon that survey, whatever comes in on that survey, if it states that they're unhappy then we seek other insurance for our employees, seconded by Mrs. Ramirez and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Gina Rovello	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		

5. Approval of Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP- Delinquent Tax Contract  
Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.  
Mrs. Alderete moved to approve the item as presented, Mrs. Ramirez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 6/0. Motion passed.

<b>Vote:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
Stacey Alderete	X		
Cynthia Ramirez	X		
Gina Rovello	X		
Shirley Ibarra	X		
Homer Flores	X		
Ernesto Arrellano 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, 551.076, 551.082, and 551.0821**

1. Discussion concerning personnel matters pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.074.
2. Consultation with attorney: status of pending TEA investigation  
Start time: 9:41 PM.  
End time: 11:21 PM.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

1. Reconvene from Executive Session for action relative to items considered during ExecutiveSession  
None

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Alderete moved to adjourn the meeting, Mrs. Ramirez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 PM.

**ATTEST**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernesto Arrellano 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.*

*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.*