



**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, November 15, 2023, 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
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Shirley Ibarra		X	
Joe Araiza	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		
Homer Flores Jr.		X	
Manuel Lopez	X		

- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- TEXAS PLEDGE
- PRAYER

Led by Alexis Castillo, Director of Communications

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing to discuss the 2022-2023 FIRST Rating
Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Tom Cummins, AFT Representative, addressed the Board regarding the possible change in health insurance carrier to the TRS, possibly going to the TRS Active Care Plan.

TEA REMARKS

Dr. Abe Saavedra, TEA: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Earlier this week I had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Lopez, Board President and Superintendent to discuss some tentative exit criteria in reference to the Conservator being eventually removed; what are some of the things that need occur. This is an ongoing process. For example, I am also in the process of developing a needs assessment. I had an opportunity to meet with Mr. Kingman, Ms. Marcha, concerning academics and finance. And so as we go through this needs assessment, we'll continue to identify areas that the Board will need to work on and take action in it as we move forward. But one of the things that we have already identified, and I have reviewed with Mr. Lopez, is the need for a balanced budget by next fiscal year. Next August when you adopt the 24-25 budget, it is expected that you'll be able to adopt a balanced budget. I've also discussed this with Mr. Kingman and his response is, it can be done but it won't be easy. So, you know it's somewhat ironic that on the FIRST report that Mr. Kingman just presented, you score an "A", a district that has a deficit of several million dollars. So you seem to do a lot of things right in finance, I'll tell you the one thing that's not being done right and hasn't been done right for years and years; you simply spend more money than what comes in. That deficit, the liability, the 130 million in liability concerning bonds. All of that is a practice that's been in place at South San for many many many years. You spend to the limit and you also delay, I'm talking about not necessarily this Board but Boards in general at South San. You delay paying off. You pay a lot of interest as Mr. Kingman and I looked at the bonds. The district has traditionally paid a lot of interest up front and the principle towards the end. That simply means that you're paying a lot of interest over time. And so, that 92 score, in order for it to get better as Mr. Kingman stated, the not only the deficit but the liability, how much you owe in debt has got to be reduced. In addition to bonds, in the last couple years the Board has also looked at maintenance notes. You have several

maintenance, I think its 4 if I recall correctly, 3 or 4 maintenance notes of several million dollars that is also debt. And so I want to emphasize to the Board that as you move forward, there's gonna be some tough decisions to make. Real tough decisions to make, but you got to be able to reduce your expenditures or you will never get out of this hole. So I would encourage you to seriously look at all the finances. I would encourage you to ask questions as you did a while ago with Mr. Kingman. I want you to really understand where the district stands in reference to the debt and the liabilities that the district has, thank you.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REMARKS (NO ACTION / REPORT ONLY)

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed the community and guests that are watching online and in person. He recognized key staff, Elizabeth Martinez, Director of Federal Programs and Deborah Rice, Director of Child Nutrition, for their hard work. He informed that we received notification from the state that we will be receiving roughly \$5.6 million in a safety grant. It will need to be used to upgrade security features at all campuses. He stated that the external auditors should be finished and their report should be finalized in a few weeks. He informed that our District Emergency Operations Plan has been approved. He informed parents and students that the district will be closed next week for the holiday. He mentioned that the district's image has been marred recently because of actions of individuals that do not represent the entire group and community. He stated for the record: We are a rooted, hardworking community who want nothing better than to offer the best educational opportunities for our students. We have pride, we have respect, and most important we have integrity. These are simple values that identify the type of community we are. Let's not take these simple but powerful values for granted but use them as a foundation to better our school district. I have heard from many of you across the district with the same sentiment and I assured you that I will share it in tonight's remarks that enough is enough. We will no longer allow anyone to falsely represent us. That is the message for anyone who has any intention to tarnish the image of our community and the hard work our students put in every day. I encourage you to walk into our schools, our classrooms, our cafeterias, any of our district facilities, and you will see for yourself that our district has the most hard working and dedicated individuals who want nothing better than to see our students succeed and flourish. I want to thank you for your efforts and we will continue to move forward. As we near the Thanksgiving holiday, I'd like to say that I am thankful for having the opportunity to serve the community that once served me. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and our Administration, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and hope everyone enjoys their time with their family and friends. God bless each and every one of you and of course, God bless South San ISD.

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

None

RECOGNITIONS

1. Blue Santa Visits South San Antonio ISD

Alexis LaFosse, Director of Communications, was called to recognize a special guest.

PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

1. October 2023 Financials

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

2. Academic Health Report

Millicent Marcha, Chief Academic Officer, was called to present and answer questions related to this item.

3. District Insurance Costs/TRS ActiveCare Plan

Rita Uresti, Executive Director of Human Resources, and Tony Kingman, Chief Financial Officer, were 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. October 18, 2023 Regular Called

2. Approve the memorandum of understanding between Eagles Flight and South San Antonio ISD.

3. Approve the memorandum of understanding between the Bexar County Sheriff's Office Explorers program and South San Antonio ISD.

4. Approve the memorandum of understanding between Building a Purpose and South San Antonio ISD.

5. 2023-2024 Pay and Compensation Plan Amendment

Mr. Arrellano moved to approve the consent agenda items 1 – 5 as presented, Mrs. Ramirez seconded and the Board of Trustees voted 5/0 to approve the item as presented. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Discussion and possible action to approve Trane to provide a 300-ton centrifugal water chiller for Dwight Middle School per RFP#2023-10 HVAC and Mechanical Trade Services.

Henry Yzaguirre, Superintendent was called to present and answer questions related to this item. Mrs. Ramirez moved to approve the item as presented, Mr. Arrellano seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 5/0. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.	X		
Manuel Lopez	X		

2. 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 also 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. Personnel: deliberation of possible censure against Homer Flores, Jr., Trustee for District 3.
3. Real Estate: deliberation of pending offer to purchase District real estate property and matters related thereto.

Start time: 7:33 PM.

End time: 7:54 PM.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

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

No Action Taken.

2. Discussion and possible action to adopt censure against Homer Flores, Jr., Trustee for District 3.

Mr. Arrellano made a motion: I move that we approve item#2 as presented, Mrs. Ramirez seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted 4/1. Motion passed.

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstained
Ernesto Arrellano Jr.	X		
Cyndi Ramirez	X		
Joe Araiza	X		
Abel Martinez Jr.		X	
Manuel Lopez	X		

Resolution of Censure read into the record by Mr. Lopez:

WHEREAS, it is the mission of the South San Antonio Independent School District to provide an exceptional learning experience that engages, empowers, and prepares students to compete and reach their highest potential; and

WHEREAS, District policy and Texas state law demand that Trustees effectively and ethically govern the District to further this mission; and

WHEREAS, District Policy BBF(LOCAL) mandates that Trustees shall be fair, just, and impartial in all decisions and actions and to respect others as each Trustee wishes to be respected; and

WHEREAS, Board Operating Procedure 5.2 mandates that Trustees shall maintain the dignity of elected office as leaders and fiduciaries of the District and shall maintain professional and respectful relationships.

WHEREAS, Mr. Homer Flores, Jr., a Trustee of the District and then President of the Board of Trustees, in an official meeting held June 21, 2023, and governed by the Texas Open Meetings Act, personally insulted Dr. Abelardo Saavedra, the District’s Conservator appointed by the Texas Education Agency and Texas Education Agency Commissioner Mike Morath, with highly offensive, vulgar, and profane language that disrupted the District’s public meeting and violated Texas state law; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Homer Flores, Jr.’s highly offensive, vulgar, and profane behavior caused Dr. Saavedra, fellow Trustees, and the Superintendent to feel disgusted, threatened, uncomfortable, and unsafe in violation of District Policy BBF(LOCAL) and Board Operating Procedures; and

WHEREAS, Trustee Homer Flores, Jr.’s actions insulted Texas state officials, adversely impacted his effectiveness as a Trustee, undermined the orderly governance of the District, embarrassed himself and fellow Trustees, and drew a personal rebuke from the Texas Education Agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the District does hereby publicly censure Trustee Homer Flores, Jr. for deplorable behavior and actions that are, in no way, representative of the standards of conduct that the Board expects of Trustees and are an embarrassment to the South San community of taxpayers, parents, and students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this formal censure repudiating Trustee Homer Flores, Jr.’s behavior and actions described herein will be read into the official minutes of the District’s proceedings, as required by Board Operating Procedure 8.2.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15th day of November 2023.

3. Discussion and possible action regarding pending offer to purchase District real estate property and matters related thereto.

No Action Taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Ramirez moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Arrellano seconded, and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.

ATTEST



Manuel Lopez, 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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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.