



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 May 28, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Central Office Café, 7001 E. Expressway 83, Mercedes, Texas 78570. Due to a power failure, the Board meeting was relocated from the Teaching and Learning Center and the public was guided to the new location upon arrival.

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 Antonio 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
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Eduardo L. “Larry” Cantu	Los Fresnos
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Noel Garza, DDS	Mission
Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Sandra Garza Ochoa, Ph.D.	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
David Torres	Edinburg

The following Board members were absent:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Javier Farias	McAllen
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Rodolfo “Rudy” Ramirez	Edinburg
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Rick Villarreal, DDS	Rancho Viejo
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Brenda De La Garza, Ed.D.
Efrain Garza	Vanessa Rivera
Lissa Frausto	Sandra Torres
Marla Knaub	Frank Trevino
Amanda Odom	Ramon Longoria
Marcos Flores	Carmen Noriega
Nereyda Trevino, Ed.D.	
Reynaldo Rodriguez, Ed.D.	
Michele Guajardo, Ph.D.	
Eric Gutierrez	
Jose Lucio	
Marco Zamora	
Maribel Valdez	
Cynthia Chairez, Ed.D.	

3. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Israel G. 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.

6. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

The Board did not receive any requests to address the Board of Directors on any non-agenda topics for this meeting.

7. Awards & Recognitions.

- A. Recognition of the 2024 STISD District Teacher of the Year.
- B. Recognition of all four high schools for ranking among the best in the state and nation in the U.S. News & World Report 2024 Best U.S. High Schools.

The Board postponed recognitions to the June 18, 2024 Board meeting, due to the power failure at Central Office.

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.

The Board President recommended moving the following items to the consent agenda:

- 10.A. Report on 8th Grade Health Science CTE students to receive CPR Certification.
- 10.B. Report on the Teacher Incentive Allotment System Expansion and Modification Application.
- 10.C. Action: Review and act on approving the T-TESS Appraisal Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.
- 11.A. Report on the following projects:
 - 1. Health Professions Parking Lot project
 - 2. Health Professions Gymnasium project
 - 3. Athletic Fields project
- 13.A. Report on Career and Technical Education Partnerships.
- 13.B. Action: Review and act on a revision to Policy FMG (LOCAL): Student Activities Travel Meal Allowance for Students.
- 13.C. Action: Review and act on a revision to Policy DNB (LOCAL): Performance Appraisal Evaluation of Campus Administrators.

A motion was made by E. Larry Cantu, seconded by Yolanda Kamel, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

9. *Action: Review and act on the April 30, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 10. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - Rick Villarreal, DDS, and David Briones, Co-Chairs
 - A. Report on 8th Grade Health Science CTE students to receive CPR Certification.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report on the Teacher Incentive Allotment System Expansion and Modification Application.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. Action: Review and act on approving the T-TESS Appraisal Calendar for the 2024-2025 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 11. Buildings and Grounds Committee - David Torres and Ruth Villarreal, Co-Chairs
 - A. Report on the following projects:
 - 1. Health Professions Parking Lot project
 - 2. Health Professions Gymnasium project
 - 3. Athletic Fields project

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Action: Review and act on approving the Job Order Contract for the Roofing Projects, and authorize the Board President to enter into the contract.

A motion was made by David Torres, seconded by E. Larry Cantu, approving the Job Order Contract for the Roofing Projects, and authorize the Board President to enter into the contract. The motion passed with one against (Adrian Garcia).

- 12. Finance & Operations Committee - Israel G. Quintanilla and Rudy Ramirez, Co-Chairs

Israel G. Quintanilla reported on the following items:

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on approving a donation from Texas A&M University in the amount of \$500 to Medical Professions for participating in the Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. *Action: Review and act on extending the following Request for Proposals (RFPs):

1. RFP 23-001 General Merchandise
2. RFP 23-003 General Maintenance, Building, Grounds Services & Equipment
3. RFP 23-004 Building Materials
4. RFP 23-005 Drug Testing Services
5. RFP 23-006 Video Productions & Photography Services
6. RFP 23-008 Petroleum Products
7. RFP 23-012 Instructional Supplies and Technology Products
8. RFP 23-014 Employee Uniforms
9. RFP 24-004 Pizza Products
10. RFP 24-005 Bus & Auto Parts
11. RFP 24-006 Mats & Linens
12. RFP 24-007 Tow Truck Services
13. RFP 24-008 Maintenance & Building Repair Services
14. RFP 24-009 Building Materials
15. RFP 24-010 Instructional Materials

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. *Action: Review and act on approving the following Request for Proposals (RFPs):

1. RFP 25-003 Awards, Incentives, and Printed Materials
2. RFP 25-004 Document Imaging, Shredding, & Retention Services
3. RFP 25-005 Travel Agent & Charter Bus Services
4. RFP 25-006 Special Education Contracted Services
5. RFP 25-007 Contracted Professional Development Services
6. RFP 25-008 Hazardous Waste and Surplus Chemical Disposal
7. RFP 25-009 Career and Technical Education Instructional Materials, Assessments, and Supplies

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. General Fund #6 (199)
2. Child Nutrition Summer Program (242)

A motion was made by Yolanda Kamel, seconded by Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa, approving the General Fund #6 (199) and Child Nutrition Summer Program (242) budget amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #4 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$1,584.42 for the Health Professions Parking Lot project.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Y. Kamel, approving payment application #4 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$1,584.42 for the Health Professions Parking Lot project. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Payment application #4 to Noble Texas Builders in the amount of \$105,434.80 for the Health Professions Parking Lot project.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Yolanda Kamel, approving payment application #4 to Noble Texas Builders in the amount of \$105,434.80 for the Health Professions Parking Lot project. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Payment application #15 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$57,236.55 for the Edinburg Bus Barn project.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Hector Gonzales, approving payment application #15 to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$57,236.55 for the Edinburg Bus Barn project. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Payment application #16 (final) to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$8,064.15 for the Edinburg Bus Barn project.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Sylvia S. Lopez, approving payment application #16 (final) to D. Wilson Construction in the amount of \$8,064.15 for the Edinburg Bus Barn project. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Invoice #501555 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$50,225.27 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system.
6. Invoice #501553 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$187,407.06 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system
7. Invoice #507347 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$152,973.20 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system.
8. Invoice #507356 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$174,466.71 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system.
9. Invoice #512095 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$91,639.08 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system.
10. Invoice #501552 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$41,456.15 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Yolanda Kamel, approving the following payment applications: invoice #501555 to Automated Logic in the amount of

\$50,225.27 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system; invoice #501553 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$187,407.06 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system; invoice #507347 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$152,973.20 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system; invoice #507356 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$174,466.71 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system; invoice #512095 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$91,639.08 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system; and invoice #501552 to Automated Logic in the amount of \$41,456.15 for the replacement of the HVAC automation system. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Action: Review and act on the following requisitions:

- a. Requisition #121261 to Trane for the replacement and installation of an HVAC unit at Health Professions.
- b. Requisition #120926 to Perry Mechanical for the replacement of an HVAC unit at Rising Scholars Academy.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Yolanda Kamel, approving requisition #121261 to Trane for the replacement and installation of an HVAC unit at Health Professions and requisition #120926 to Perry Mechanical for the replacement of an HVAC unit at Rising Scholars Academy. The motion passed unanimously.

H. Action: Review and act on approving Good Buy Cooperative, and enter into an interlocal agreement.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, approving Good Buy Cooperative, and enter into an interlocal agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on approving expenses using Mackenzie Scott donation funds.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by David Torres, approving expenses for student internships using Mackenzie Scott donation funds. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Action: Consideration and possible approval of a Resolution Appointing Members to the South Texas Independent School District Public Facility Corporation Board of Directors, Calling a Meeting of the South Texas Independent School District Public Facility Corporation Board of Directors and approval of other matters related thereto.

A motion was made by Yolanda Kamel, seconded by David Briones, appointing Dr. Noel Garza and Eduardo R. Rodriguez to the Public Facilities Corporation. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Robert J. Lerma and Noel Garza, DDS., Co-Chairs

A. Report on Career and Technical Education Partnerships.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Action: Review and act on a revision to Policy FMG (LOCAL): Student Activities Travel Meal Allowance for Students.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. Action: Review and act on a revision to Policy DNB (LOCAL): Performance Appraisal Evaluation of Campus Administrators.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 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 and District Reports
 - 1. Preparatory Academy - M. Zamora
 - 2. Rising Scholars Academy - R. Rodriguez, Ed.D.
 - 3. World Scholars - C. Chairez, Ed.D.
 - 4. Medical Professions - J. Lucio
 - 5. Health Professions - M. Guajardo, Ph.D.
 - 6. Science Academy - E. Gutierrez
 - 7. Virtual Academy - M. Valdez
 - 8. Enrollment & Attendance Report
 - 9. Human Resources Report

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the following out of district student/staff travel:

1. Student Mentoring with Immersive Learning and Enrichment (S.M.I.L.E.) Healthcare Pathway Program, July 7-12, 2024, in Nashville, TN.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Action: Review and act on Resolution calling for South Texas ISD Board of Directors Elections, November 5, 2024.

A motion was made by Eduardo R. Rodriguez, seconded by Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa, approving a Resolution calling for South Texas ISD Board of Directors Elections on November 5, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

- F. Action: Name new delegate and alternate for the TASA|TASB txEdCON24 Annual Convention, September 28, 2024, in San Antonio, TX.

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, seconded by Yolanda Kamel, naming Israel G. Quintanilla as the Delegate and Abiel J. Cantú as the Alternate for the TASA|TASB txEdCON24 Annual Convention, September 28, 2024, in San Antonio, TX. The motion passed unanimously.

- G. Action: Review and Act on approving the request for New Non-Professional Positions for the 2024-2025 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for the following:
 1. Child Nutrition Workers (6)
 2. Classroom Aide (1)

A motion was made by Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa, seconded by Yolanda Kamel, approving the request for new Non-Professional positions for the 2024-2025 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for Child Nutrition Workers (6) and Classroom Aide (1). The motion passed unanimously.

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on May 28, 2024 at 7:32 p.m. as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Section, 551.001, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, and 551.084. The Board Secretary, Israel G Quintanill served to record the minutes of the closed session to discuss the following:**

- A. 551.074, 551.071 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding Personnel Matters: Closed Meeting
 1. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - a. Director of Bilingual & ESL Education
 - b. Assistant Principal(s)
 - c. Assessment & Accountability Coordinator
 - d. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Lead Co-Op
 - e. Occupational Therapist Co-Op
 - f. District Student Wellness Specialist

- g. Counselor
- h. School Nurse
- i. Teacher(s)

The Board ended the Executive Session at 7:39 p.m.

17. OPEN SESSION: Action on any Item Deliberated in Closed Meeting

A. 551.074, 551.071 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding Personnel Matters:

- 1. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - a. Director of Bilingual & ESL Education
 - b. Assistant Principal(s)
 - c. Assessment and Accountability Coordinator
 - d. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Lead Co-Op
 - e. Occupational Therapist Co-Op
 - f. District Student Wellness Specialist
 - g. Counselor
 - h. School Nurse
 - i. Teacher(s)

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of Niranda Flores as Director of Bilingual and ESL Education (12 months), Rigoberto Olivarez as Assessment & Accountability Coordinator (12 months), Hannaly Ramirez as Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Lead Co-Op (11 months), Dr. Analicia Catarina Garza as Occupational Therapist Co-Op (11 months), Clarissa Castaneda Garcia as District Student Wellness Specialist (11 months), Javier Gonzalez as Counselor (11 months), Diana Angelica Garcia as Counselor (10 months), Claudia Hilda Hernandez as Teacher (10 months), Maria Mercedes Martinez as Teacher (10 months), Ricardo Garza as Teacher (10 months), Alberto Montemayor as Teacher (10 months), Monica Marissa Lopez as Teacher (10 months), Veronica Cardenas as Teacher (10 months), Dennise Bonnet Ramirez as Teacher (10 months), Vanessa Marines as Teacher (10 months), William Guy Prock as Teacher (10 months), Eduardo Favata as Teacher (10 months), Juanita Guetzow as Teacher (10 months), Rogelio Olvera Jr. as Teacher (10 months), Lakyn Michelle Valdez as Teacher (10 months), Hasom Lamar Bratley as Teacher (10 months), Reymundo Quiroga as Teacher (10 months), Rubisela Vasquez as Teacher (10 months), Stacy Hernandez as Teacher (10 months), Jovana Alejandra Leal as Teacher (10 months), Jada Cyan Carrera as Teacher (10 months), and Jesus Rafael Artiaga as Teacher (10 months).

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.

18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Hector Gonzales, seconded by Yolanda Kamel, adjourning the meeting at 7:42 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.