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**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 July 30, 2024, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Central Office Teaching and Learning Center, 7001 E. Expressway 83, Mercedes, Texas 78570.

1. Welcome.

Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Board Vice-President, welcomed the guests, staff and fellow Board members.

2. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza,, Board Vice-President at approximately 7:00 p.m., at which time she 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
Noel Garza, DDS	Mission
Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Sandra Garza Ochoa, Ph.D.	Weslaco
Israel G. Quintanilla	Raymondville
Rodolfo “Rudy” Ramirez	Edinburg
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Oscar Salinas	Edinburg
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
David Torres	Edinburg

The following Board members were absent:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Rick Villarreal, DDS	Rancho Viejo
Ruth Villarreal	Mission

The following staff members were present:

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

3. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa.

4. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

5. Receipt of appointment by Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez of Oscar Salinas to the South Texas ISD Board of Directors for the unexpired term of Hidalgo County At-Large position.

The Board received in writing from Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez, the appointment of Oscar Salinas of Edinburg for the Hidalgo County At-Large position.

6. Administer Oath of Office for newly appointed Board member.

The Honorable Richard F. Cortez, Hidalgo County Judge, officiated the Oath of Office for Mr. Oscar Salinas.

7. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

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

8. 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.

9. Awards & Recognitions.

- A. Recognition of STISD and campuses for earning spots in the Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll for 2023.

On behalf of the Board, Amanda Odom recognized Rising Scholars Academy, Preparatory Academy, World Scholars, and Health Professions for earning spots in the Educational Results Partnership Honor Roll for 2023.

A motion was made by E. Larry Cantu, seconded by Abiel J. Cantú, moving Executive Session as the next item to be discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.

The Board ended the Executive Session at 7:55 p.m.

10. 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.

A motion was made by E. Larry Cantu, seconded by Abiel J. Cantú, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

11. *Action: Review and act on the June 18, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

12. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - Rick Villarreal, D.D.S. and David Briones, Co-Chairs

David Briones reported on the following items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on the administrators to hold ARDs for the 2024-2025 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Review and act on the appointment of Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) Members for the 2024-2025 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. Report on the 2024-2025 Schedule of Formal Grade Reporting.

Efrain Garza, Deputy Superintendent, gave a report on the 2024-2025 Schedule of Formal Grade Reporting.

- D. Report on 2024 Advanced Placement scores.

Efrain Garza, Deputy Superintendent, shared a report on the 2024 Advanced Placement Scores.

- E. Report on 2024 CTE Summer Programs.

Vanessa Rivera, CTE Director, provided a report on the 2024 CTE Summer Programs.

- F. Report on 2024-2025 Teacher Incentive Allotment Handbook.

Efrain Garza, Deputy Superintendent, shared a report on the 2024-2025 Teacher Incentive Allotment Handbook.

Board Member, E. Larry Cantu left the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

- G. Action: Review and act on the 2024-2025 District and Campus Improvement Plans (Final Reading).

A motion was made by David Briones, seconded by Hector Gonzales, approving the 2024-2025 District and Campus Improvement Plans as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Buildings and Grounds Committee - David Torres and Ruth Villarreal, Co-Chairs

David Torres reported on the following items:

- A. Report on the following projects:

1. Health Professions Gymnasium
2. Health Professions Parking Lot
3. Roofing project
4. Cameras & Access Controls district-wide
5. ERRC DAS System and Cell Phone Signal Boost

Nathaniel Perez, The Warren Group, was present to and provided the Board with an update on the Health Professions Gymnasium project. David Monreal, GMS Architects, was present and provided the Board with an update on the Health Professions Parking Lot project, the Roofing project, and the Cameras & Access Controls district-wide project. Jada Ayala, Tri-County Communications, was present and provided an update on the ERRC DAS System and Cell Phone Signal Boost.

- B. Action: Review and act on approving the Health Professions Parking Lot project as substantially complete.

A motion was made by David Torres, seconded by Israel Quintanilla, approving the Health Professions Parking Lot project as substantially complete. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Action: Review and act on approving the ranking of proposals received for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) 25-010 Athletic Fields Edinburg project, and authorizing Administration and the Board President to negotiate and proceed with developing a contract in accordance with the approved ranking.

A motion was made by David Torres, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving the ranking of proposals received for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) 25-010 Athletic Fields Edinburg project, and authorizing Administration and the Board President to negotiate and proceed with developing a contract in accordance with the approved ranking. The contract will be brought back to the Board for approval. The motion passed with three against (Dr. Noel Garza, Sylvia S. Lopez, and Adrian Garcia).

- D. Action: Review and act on approving the ranking of proposals received for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) 25-011 Athletic Fields Mercedes project, and authorizing Administration and the Board President to negotiate and proceed with developing a contract in accordance with the approved ranking.

A motion was made by Eduardo R. Rodriguez, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving the ranking of proposals received for Competitive Sealed Proposals (CSP) 25-011 Athletic Fields Mercedes project, and authorizing Administration and the Board President to negotiate and proceed with developing a contract in accordance with the approved ranking. The contract will be brought back to the Board for approval. The motion passed with two against (Sylvia S. Lopez and Adrian Garcia).

14. 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. *Report on school district investments:

1. Investments owned by the district.
2. Investments held by Wilmington Trust for the South Texas ISD Public Facilities Corporation.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on approving the following donation(s):

1. Donation of gift cards totaling \$100.00 from CJ Trevino, Trevino's Digital Photography to the CTE Department for Seniors who attended the STISD Senior Summit.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on approving 13 paychecks for new employees.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. *Action: Review and act on 2024-2025 school lunch and breakfast prices.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. Review proposed preliminary general fund budget.

Marla Knaub, Superintendent for Finance and Operations reported the final general fund budget will be brought to the Board for approval at the August 27th Board meeting.

- H. Action: Review and act on setting a date for a public meeting to discuss the 2024-2025 budget and proposed tax rate to be published on the notice of the public hearing.

Marla Knaub recommended setting the date of August 14, 2024 for publication and August 27, 2024 as the date for the Public Meeting to discuss the 2024-2025 budget and proposed tax rate.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by David Briones, approving the dates as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on approving the 2024-2025 Compensation Plan.

The Board held a Compensation Plan Workshop prior to the Board meeting to review options for the 2024-2025 Compensation Plan. A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by David Briones, approving the 2024-2025 Compensation Plan (to include a 4% salary increase from the midpoint for all eligible employees). The motion passed unanimously.

J. Action: Review and act on approving the 2024-2025 Benefits.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Abiel J. Cantú, approving the 2024-2025 Benefits. The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Payment application #1 to TADCO in the amount of \$912,190 for the Roofing project.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Adrian Garcia, approving payment application #1 to TADCO in the amount of \$912,190 for the Roofing project. The motion passed with one abstention (Oscar Salinas).

2. Payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc., in the amount of \$16,358.83 for the Roofing project.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Sylvia S. Lopez, approving payment application #2 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc., in the amount of \$16,358.83 for the Roofing project. The motion passed with one abstention (Oscar Salinas).

3. Payment application #6 to Noble Texas Builders in the amount of \$78,757.85 for the Health Professions Parking Lot project.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Sylvia S. Lopez, approving payment application #6 to Noble Texas Builders in the amount of \$78,757.85 for the Health Professions Parking Lot project. The motion passed with one abstention (Oscar Salinas).

4. Payment application #7(final) to Telepro Communications in the amount of \$684.45 for the Cameras and Access Controls project.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving payment application #7(final) to Telepro Communications in the amount of \$684.45 for the Cameras and Access Controls project. The motion passed with one abstention (Oscar Salinas).

5. Payment application #2 to Gerlach Builders in the amount of \$323,600.29 for the Health Professions Gymnasium project.

A motion was made by Israel G. Quintanilla, seconded by Abiel J. Cantú, approving payment application #2 to Gerlach Builders in the amount of \$323,600.29 for the Health Professions Gymnasium project. The motion passed with one abstention (Oscar Salinas).

15. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Abiel J. Cantú and Robert J. Lerma, Co-Chairs

Dr. Noel Garza reported on the following items:

- A. *Action: Review and act on the 2024-2025 STISD Student Code of Conduct.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Review and act on Policy Update 123.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on the following Memorandum of Understanding related to the Cameron County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program for the 2024-2025 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the Board Operating Procedures.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. Report on the staff per diem and student meal allowance.

Efrain Garza gave a report on updates to the staff per diem and student meal allowance.

16. Community & Governmental Relations Committee - Sasha Crane and Yolanda Kamel, Co-Chairs

Eduardo Rodriguez reported on the following items:

- A. Report: Update regarding the current marketing campaign and future possibilities for student recruitment.

Amanda Odom provided an update on the marketing campaign and student recruitment efforts. Mr. Eduardo Rodriguez reminded the Board of the date for the STISD 60th Anniversary Celebration, which will be held on November 16, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

17. 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 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 appointment of Campus Appraisers for the 2024-2025 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. Action: Review and act on Superintendent's Performance Appraisal Instrument.

A motion was made by Rudy Ramirez, seconded by Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa, approving the Superintendent's Performance Appraisal Instrument as presented. The motion passed with two against (Adrian Garcia and Sylvia S. Lopez) and one abstention (Oscar Salinas).

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on July 30, 2024 at 7:13 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. Assistant Principal(s)
 - b. Career and Technical Education Coordinator
 - c. Educational Diagnostician Co-Op
 - d. Educational Diagnostician
 - e. Executive Director for Special Programs
 - f. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Lead Co-Op
 - g. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Co-Op
 - h. School Nurse
 - i. Special Education Counselor Lead
 - j. Speech Language Pathologist Assistant Co-Op
 - k. Speech Language Pathologist Co-Op
 - l. Teacher(s)
- B. Pursuant to Section 551.071 and 551.074 of the Texas Government Code, consultation with attorney concerning possible legal issues in connection with DGBA Level III grievance of J.A.
 - 1. Consideration and possible action regarding DGBA Level III Grievance of J.A.

The Board ended the Executive session at 7:55 p.m. (see page 3)

- 2. 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. Assistant Principal
 - b. Career And Technical Education Coordinator
 - c. Educational Diagnostician Co-Op
 - d. Educational Diagnostician
 - e. Executive Director for Special Programs
 - f. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Lead Co-Op
 - g. Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Co-Op
 - h. School Nurse
 - i. Special Education Counselor Lead
 - j. Speech Language Pathologist Assistant Co-Op
 - k. Speech Language Pathologist Co-Op
 - l. Teacher(s)

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of Dr. Brenda Iveth De La Garza as Executive Director for Special Programs (12 months), Tanya Karina Perez as

Assistant Principal (11 months), Rebecca Ann Salinas as Assistant Principal (11 months), Delia Anne Ramos as Career and Technical Education Coordinator (12 months), Alma Rosa Vasquez as Educational Diagnostician Co-Op (11 months), Yolanda Montelongo as Educational Diagnostician (11 months), Roxanna Lizette Silva as School Nurse (10 months), Rebecca Leal Cavazos as Speech Language Pathologist Co-Op (11 months), Anai Villarreal as Speech Language Pathologist Assistant Co-Op (11 months), Alejos Solis III as Teacher (10 months), Christopher Sanchez as Teacher (10 months), Rodrigo Barrera III as Teacher (10 months), Ahitzia Celia Zapata as Teacher (10 months), Cynthia Magdalena Delgado as Licensed Specialist in School Psychology Lead Co-Op (11 months), Celina Escanuela Peralez as Educational Diagnostician Co-Op (11 months), Michael Christian Trevino as Teacher (10 months), Eduardo Hernandez Rios Jr. as Teacher (10 months), and Linda Marie Garcia as Teacher (10 months).

A motion was made by Adrian Garcia, seconded by Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa, approving the employment of professional staff as recommended. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Consideration and deliberation of DGBA Level III Grievance of J.A.

A motion was made by Jaime Solis, seconded by Hector Gonzales, approving the grievance. The motion passed with two against (E. Larry Cantu and Eduardo R. Rodriguez).

3. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Rudy Ramirez, seconded by Jaime Solis, adjourning the meeting at 8:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.