

**Donna Independent School District**  
**Regular Board Meeting - Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 17, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

The Board of Trustees met in the Staff Development Center/Board Room located at the Donna ISD Administration Building at 904 Hester Avenue, Donna, Texas 78537 to deliberate the matters noted below.

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

*Board President Fernando Castillo called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.*

*The following Board Members were in attendance:*

- *Fernando Castillo, President*
- *Jose Rogelio Reyna, Vice-President*
- *Ida M. Garcia, Secretary*
- *Jose L. Valdez, Trustee*
- *Dr. Maricela Valdez, Trustee*
- *Eva Castillo Watts, Trustee*

*The following Board Member was absent:*

- *Eloy Avila, Trustee*

*The following Administrators/Individuals were also in attendance:*

- *Dr. Angela Dominguez, Superintendent*
- *Alfonso Perez, Jr., Chief Financial Officer*
- *Stephanie Powelson-Garza, Executive Director for Curriculum & Instruction*
- *Domingo Aguirre, Jr., Police Chief*
- *Sandra Quintanilla, Public Relations Officer*
- *Tony Torres, School Attorney*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**II. OPEN FORUM**

*No one signed up to speak during Open Forum*

**III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**A. Donna ISD Dual Language Program Journey TNTP**

*Dr. Olivia Hernandez, with TNTP provided an update on Donna ISD's Dual Language Journey in partnership with TNTP. She presented some key data points regarding early literacy, STAAR, TELPAS, and Secondary.*

*Suggested areas of growth being recommended to continue growing:*

- *Donna ISD can improve fidelity of implementation by continuing learning walks and teacher coaching to monitor and enhance instructional practices.*
- *Donna ISD can enhance district-wide dual language implementation by aligning systems and fostering collaboration among all stakeholders to create a coherent instructional program.*
- *Donna ISD can strengthen the integrity of dual language implementation by continuing to invest in capacity building for district and school leaders, teachers, and families.*

*Dr. Hernandez also presented each board member with a small token of appreciation for being named TASA School Board of the Year.*

#### **IV. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **A. Approval of the Annual Financial Audit for Fiscal Year ending August 31, 2024.**

*Mr. Alfonso Perez introduced Alfred Vera with Cascos and Associates who is the Managing CPA and in charge of the Donna ISD Audit ending on August 31, 2024.*

*Donna ISD has earned an unmodified opinion based on their review.*

*Ida M. Garcia made a motion to approve the Annual Financial Audit for Fiscal Year ending August 31, 2024, which was seconded by Jose R. Reyna. Jose L. Valdez, Dr. Maricela Valdez, Eva Castillo-Watts and Fernando Castillo voted in favor. Motion carried.*

##### **B. LSG Progress and Accountability Goal 3 Presentation: GPMs 3.1, 3.2**

*Mr. Javier Villanueva, Executive Director for CCMR and Leadership presented the following on CCMR.*

- *Presented data pertaining to CCMR.*
- *Examined relevant data pertaining to Goal 3 at BOY, focusing on GPMS metrics for 3.1 and 3.22.*
- *Reviewed areas of Reinforcement and Refinement in teaching and learning, as well as leadership practices.*
- *Examined Superintendent's Evaluation of Goal 3.*

*Eva Castillo Watts made a motion to accept at the monitor level, which was seconded by Dr. Maricela Valdez. Ida M. Garcia, Jose R. Reyna, Jose L. Valdez, and Fernando Castillo voted in favor. Motion carried.*

## V. **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Ida M. Garcia made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Eva Castillo Watts. Jose R. Reyna, Jose L. Valdez, Dr. Maricela Valdez, and Fernando Castillo voted in favor. Motion carried.*

### A. **BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

- a. Approve Accounts Payable.
- b. Approve Financial Statements for October 2024.
- c. Approve Budget Amendments.
- d. Approve Report of Monthly Tax Collections for October 2024.
- e. Approval to Declare DISD Child Nutrition Program Surplus to be taken to auction.
- f. Approval to award Solis Contractor for RFP 111924-810 Installation of Doors and Door Components.
- g. Approval to award Sunsational Solutions for RFP 112024-811 Installation of Security Film.
- h. Request for approval to authorize the Superintendent and/or its Designee to join the TASB Energy Cooperative and enter into an electricity contract.

### B. **ACADEMIC SERVICES**

- a. Approve Interlocal Cooperation Contract between the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and Donna ISD for the College Bound-Career Linked GEAR UP!
- b. Approval of MOU between Donna ISD and RGV CDL regarding the Commercial Drivers License program through the CTE department for 10 student in grade 12 from Donna High School for the School year 2024-2025.

### C. **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- a. Request for Approval of 2024-2025 Early Resignation Incentive Initiative/Program

### D. **SUPPORT SERVICES**

- a. Approve minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on November 19, 2024.

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION as Authorized by Texas Government  
Code Sections 551.071, 551.072, 551.073, 551.074, 551.075, 551.076, 551.082, 551.083  
and 551.084.**

*The Board of Trustees went into Executive Session at 7:13 pm.*

- A. Discussion and Consideration of the Superintendent's Recommendation of Personnel Matters
  - Recommendations for Professionals to Include Contract Renewal, Hiring, Adjustments, Termination, and Rescission Recommendation
  - Update of District Personnel
- B. Discussion and consideration of Cause No. C-3915-23-H; Saenz v. DISD
- C. Discussion and Consideration on Employment of Donna High School Head Football Coach and Donna ISD Child Nutrition Director
- D. Consideration and Discussion of TEA District vulnerability assessment summary
- E. Discussion and Private Consultation with Attorney regarding Pending or Contemplated Litigation, Settlement Matters, and/or Matters Where the Professional Duty Under State Board Requires Private Consultation with School Attorney.

**VII. OPEN SESSION - Take possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session.**

*The Board of Trustees reconvened from Executive Session at 9:11 pm.*

- A. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Superintendent's Recommendation of Personnel
  - Approve the Recommendation for Professionals to Include Contract Renewal, Hiring, Adjustments, Termination, and Rescission Recommendations

*Eva Castillo Watts made a motion to approve the recommendation of personnel as discussed in Executive Session, which was seconded by Dr. Maricela Valdez. Ida M. Garcia, Jose R. Reyna, Jose L. Valdez, and Fernando Castillo voted in favor. Motion carried.*

**B. Discussion and possible action on Donna High School Head Football Coach and DISD Child Nutrition Director**

*Eva Castillo Watts made a motion to approve Thomas Jones as the Donna HS Head Football Coach/Coordinator, which was seconded by Dr. Maricela Valdez. Ida M. Garcia, Jose R. Reyna, Jose L. Valdez, and Fernando Castillo voted in favor. Motion carried.*

*Eva Castillo Watts made a motion to approve Cynthia Casas as the Donna ISD Child Nutrition Services Director, which was seconded by Dr. Maricela Valdez. Ida M. Garcia, Jose R. Reyna, Jose L. Valdez, and Fernando Castillo voted in favor. Motion carried.*

**VIII. ADJOURN**

*Ida M. Garcia made a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting, which was seconded by Jose R. Reyan. Jose L. Valdez, Dr. Maricela Valdez, Eva Castillo Watts and Fernando Castillo voted in favor. Motion carried.*

*The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm.*



*Fernando Castillo, President  
Board of Trustees  
Donna ISD*



*Ida M. Garcia, Secretary  
Board of Trustees  
Donna ISD*

*Board Approved: January 14, 2025*