



Public Notice of Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors South Texas ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD will be held September 23, 2025, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Central Office Teaching and Learning Center, 7001 E. Expressway 83, Mercedes, Texas 78570.

Individuals who wish to address the Board during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment shall sign up at least 48 hours prior to the meeting by submitting an email to public.audience@stisd.net and attaching the District's Public Audience Sign-in Sheet available on the District's website.

During the course of a board meeting, the Board may discuss any item on the agenda in a closed meeting if permitted under the Texas Open Meetings Act. If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the Board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E.

Pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.129, the Board of Trustees may use a telephone conference call, video conference call or communications over the internet to conduct a public consultation with its attorney in an open meeting of the governmental body or a private consultation with its attorney in a closed meeting of the governmental body.

The subjects to be discussed or considered or upon which any formal action may be taken are as listed below. Items do not have to be taken in the order shown on this meeting notice.

Unless removed from the consent agenda, items identified within the consent agenda will be acted on at one time.

1. Welcome.
2. Board Meeting called to order.
3. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.
4. Moment of Silence.
5. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.
6. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.
7. Awards & Recognitions.

- A. Recognition of South Texas ISD Preparatory Academy for being recognized as an Apple Distinguished School for the 2025–2028 program term.
 - B. Recognition of Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza's re-election to the TASB Board of Directors, serving as Second Vice-President.
 - C. Presentation of a proclamation in memory and honor of board member, Sylvia S. Lopez.
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.
9. *Action: Review and act on the August 26, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.
10. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - David Briones and Sandra Garza Ochoa, Ph.D., Co-Chairs
- A. *Report on the 2025 College Entrance Scores.
 - B. Action: Review and act on the approval of newly adopted TEKS based CTE courses and the addition of new CTE courses.
11. Buildings and Grounds Committee - Margarita Garcia and Jaime Solis, Co-Chairs
- A. *Report on the following projects:
 - 1. Athletic Fields project
 - 2. CTE Expansion project
 - B. Action: Review and act on approving job order contracting as the procurement method for the Edinburg Athletic Fields Concession project.
12. Finance & Operations Committee - Rudy Ramirez and Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D., Co-Chairs
- A. *Report on checks written since last report.
 - B. *Action: Review and act on removing assets from district inventory.
 - C. *Action: Review and act on approving the following donations:
 - 1. Donation of a canopy valued at \$50 from Samee Lashari to Preparatory Academy for the Security Staff at school entrance.
 - D. *Action: Review and act on approving the 2024-2025 federal funds rollover for the following funds:
 - 1. Title I Part A (211)
 - 2. Title I Part C (212)
 - 3. Title II Part A (255)
 - 4. Title III Part A, LEP (263)
 - 5. Title IV Part A, SSAEP (289)
 - 6. IDEA B Formula (313)
 - 7. Advance Placement Incentives (397)
 - 8. TPS Safe Grant (486)

- E. *Action: Review and act on the following budget amendment(s):
 - 1. Perkins V CTE (244)
 - 2. Mental Health Grant (289)
 - 3. Instructional Materials & SBOE (410)
- F. *Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:
 - 1. Payment application #13 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$6,155.43 for the Athletic Fields project.
 - 2. Payment application #3 to Herrcon in the amount of \$33,487.50 for the CTE Expansion project.
 - 3. Payment application #7 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$5,186.93 for the Restrooms/Concessions at the Mercedes Athletic Fields project.
 - 4. Payment application #12 to Gerlach Builders in the amount of \$449,968.44 for the Athletic Fields project.
 - 5. Payment application #10 to Holchemont, LTD in the amount of \$268,945.00 for the Edinburg Athletic Fields project.
- G. *Action: Review and act on the following requisition(s):
 - 1. Requisition #135011 to Follett Content Solutions in the amount of \$1,653.12 for the purchase of books for the library.
 - 2. Requisition #134901 to Rivera's Machinery in the amount of \$58,600 for the purchase of a Skid Steer Loader Tractor for the district.
- H. *Action: Review and act on a resolution for a new checking account for Health Insurance payments.
- 13. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Robert J. Lerma and Eduardo R. Rodriguez, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Action: Review and act on appointing School Health Advisory Council Members for the 2025-2026 school year.
- 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.
- 15. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.
 - A. *Campus 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 - E. Gutierrez
 - B. *Action: Review and act on the following out of district student/staff travel:
 - 1. E-Rate Conference, September 15-17, 2025, in Washington, DC.

2. NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention), November 20-23, 2025 in Denver, CO.
 3. Future of Education Technology Conference, January 11-15, 2026, in Orlando, FL.
 4. Business Professionals Leadership Conference, May 6-10, 2025, in Nashville, TN.
 5. HOSA International Leadership Conference, June 17-20, 2026, in Indianapolis, IN.
- C. District Reports
1. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 - a. *Report on resignations and retirements of professional staff.
 - b. *Report on professional vacancies.
 - c. *Report on local certification through the District of Innovation Plan.
 - d. Action: Review and Act on approving the request for New Professional Position(s) for the 2025-2026 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for the following:
 1. Police Officer, K-9 Handler (1)
 2. Executive Director for Student Support
 - a. *Enrollment and Attendance Report.
 - b. Report on Student Support Services.
 3. Executive Director for Special Programs
 - a. Report on Special Programs.
 - b. Report on the South Texas Tri-County Special Education Co- Op.
 4. Chief of Police
 - a. Action: Review and act on approving members to the District's Safety and Security Committee for the 2025-2026 school year.
 5. Report on AI District Committee progress.
- D. *Action: Review and act on the following Board travel:
1. 2026 Texas Federal Advocacy Conference, February 2-3, 2026, in Washington, D.C.
 2. NSBA Annual Conference, April 10-12, 2025, in San Antonio, Texas.
- E. *Action: Review and act on approving Superintendent's Evaluation Process.
- F. Action: Review and act on resolutions for nominations of candidate(s) to the Appraisal District Board of Directors for the following:
1. Cameron County
 2. Hidalgo County
16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: A closed or executive session as pursuant to the Texas Government Code Section, 551.071, 551.072, 551.074, 551.082, 551.084 and 551.001, the Board may go into Executive 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 remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.

- a. Executive Director for Academic Excellence
 - b. Teacher(s)
 - B. 551.072 Real Property
 - 1. Discussion and consultation with attorney regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.
- 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 remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
 - a. Executive Director for Academic Excellence
 - b. Teacher(s)
 - B. Discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.
- 18. Adjournment.

If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E or Texas Government Code section 418.183(f). Before any closed meeting is convened, the presiding officer will publicly identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the closed meeting. All final votes, actions, or decisions will be taken in open meeting. [See BEC(LEGAL)]

The notice for this meeting was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meeting Act on **September 17, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Crystal Solis

For the Board of Directors