



Public Notice of Special Meeting

The Board of Directors South Texas ISD

A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD will be held December 2, 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.
4. District Call to Action.
5. Moment of Silence.
6. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.
7. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

8. Receipt of resignation from Yolanda Kamel for the At-Large position on the South Texas ISD Board of Directors.
9. Public Hearing on the 2023-2024 Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report.
10. Awards & Recognitions.
 - A. Recognition of STISD students for excellence in academic, athletic and/or extracurricular endeavors.
 - B. Recognition of the Finance Department for their participation in the BuyBoard Local Purchasing Cooperative.
11. 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.
12. *Action: Review and act on the October 28, 2025 Board Meeting minutes.
13. *Action: Review and act on the November 13, 2025 Special Called Board Meeting minutes.
14. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee — David Briones and Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Action: Review and act on the 2025-2026 Gifted/Talented Manual.
15. Buildings and Grounds Committee — Margarita Garcia and Jaime Solis, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Report on the following projects:
 1. Athletic Fields project
 2. Science Academy CTE Expansion project
16. Finance & Operations Committee — Rudy Ramirez and Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, 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 the following payment applications:
 1. Payment application #12 to Holchemont, LTD in the amount of \$24,880.50 for the Edinburg Athletic Fields project.
 2. Payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$25,578.27 for the Edinburg Athletic Field project.
 3. Payment application #5 to Herrcon in the amount of \$114,285.00 for the Science Academy CTE Expansion project.
 4. Payment application #14 to Gerlach Builders in the amount of \$236,663.63 for the Mercedes Athletic Fields project.
 - D. *Action: Review and act on the following budget amendment(s):
 1. EAF Grant (244)
 - E. *Action: Review and act on the following requisition(s):

1. Requisition #137910 to Safeware, Inc in the amount of \$53,646.43 for the purchase of a mobile surveillance trailer for district use.
 2. Requisition #137990 to Follett Content Solutions in the amount of \$1,662.56 for the purchase of books for the library.
 3. Requisition #137193 to Follett Content Solutions in the amount of \$1,579.82 for the purchase of books for the library.
 4. Requisition #137714 to Follett Content Solutions in the amount of \$6,037.10 for the purchase of books for the library.
 5. Requisition #137194 to Rush Truck Center in the amount of \$788,025.00 for the purchase of five new buses for the district.
 6. Requisition #137154 to Overdrive, Inc. in the amount of \$8,000.00 for the purchase of books for the library.
 7. Requisition #137190 to Follett Content Solutions in the amount of \$2,421.52 for the purchase of books for the library.
 8. Requisition #138216 to Barnes and Noble in the amount of \$181.88 for the purchase of books for the library.
- F. Action: Review and act on a request for use of funds from MacKenzie Scott donation for Fine Arts for all campuses.
17. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee — Robert Lerma and Eduardo Rodriguez, Co-Chairs
- A. Review of TASB Local Policy Update 126 (First Reading).
18. Community & Governmental Relations Committee — Sasha Crane and Ruth Villarreal, Co-Chairs
- A. *Report: Update regarding the current marketing campaign and future possibilities for student recruitment.
19. 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. District Reports
 1. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 - a. *Report on resignations and retirements of professional staff.
 - b. *Report on professional vacancies.
 - c. Action: Review and Act on approving the request for New Non-Professional Position(s) for the 2025-2026 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for the following:
 1. Classroom Aide, Self-Contained (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. Report on Safety and Security.
 - C. *Action: Review and act on the following out of district student/staff travel:
 - 1. 2026 National Association of Broadcasters Show, April 14-22, 2026, in Las Vegas, NV.
20. **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. Police Officer/K9 Handler
 - b. Teacher(s)
 - 2. Discussion on possible termination of the Chapter 21 term contract of Teacher for good cause (R.F.).
 - 3. Discussion regarding Superintendent's retirement and related actions as requested by Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa.
 - 4. Discussion on superintendent search.
 - B. 551.071 Private Consultation with Attorney
 - 1. Discussion with counsel on Cause No. 2025-DCL-05178; 2024-CCL-00247
 - 2. Discussion with legal counsel on Cause No. 2023-CV-0282
 - C. 551.072 Real Property
 - 1. Discussion and consultation with attorney regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.
21. 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. Police Officer/K9 Handler
 - b. Teacher(s)
 - 2. Discussion and possible action to terminate the Chapter 21 term contract of Teacher for good cause (R.F.).
 - 3. Discussion and possible action regarding Superintendent's retirement and related actions as requested by Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa.
 - 4. Discussion and possible action regarding superintendent search.
 - B. Discussion and possible action on Cause No. 2025-DCL-05178; 2024-CCL-00247

C. Discussion and possible action on Cause No. 2023-CV-0282

D. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.

22. 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 **November 26, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

Crystal Solis

For the Board of Directors