

AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FORT STOCKTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2022 – 6:00 PM
BOARD ROOM – 101 W DIVISION – FORT STOCKTON, TEXAS

The Board may deliberate or act on any of the subjects listed on the following agenda. The President may change the order of items listed for the convenience of the Board. The Board may enter into a closed meeting to seek the advice and counsel of its attorney at any time during the meeting under the authority of Texas Government Code Chapter 551.071 regarding any item listed on the agenda of this meeting or in order for the attorney to provide legal assistance or advice to the Board.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Establishment of Quorum Billy Espino, President
- B. Roll Call Anastacio Dominguez, Secretary
- C. This meeting has been duly called and notice of this meeting has been posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.
- D. Pledges of Allegiance Flo Garcia, Vice President
- E. Invocation Dr. Gabriel Zamora, Superintendent

2. OPEN FORUM AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

3. SCHOOL BOARD BOND TRAINING WORKSHOP: ISD FINANCIAL ADVISOR AND BOND COUNSEL

4. CLOSED SESSION

In accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act (Subchapters D and E of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code), the board will now enter into a closed meeting to deliberate subjects listed on this agenda authorized by Subchapter D. Any final action, decision, or vote on a subject deliberated in the closed meeting will be taken in an open meeting held in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

- A. Discuss the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee (551.074)
- B. Consultation with attorney (551.071)

5. OPEN SESSION – Reconvene to take any necessary action as a result of Closed Session

6. ADJOURNMENT

This notice was posted in accordance with the law and FSISD Policy BE (Legal/Local) on January 28, 2022.

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Trustees, Fort Stockton Independent School District
From: Dr. Gabriel Zamora, Superintendent of Schools
Date: January 28, 2022
Subject: LEGAL AND ETHICAL GUIDELINES RELATING TO BOND ELECTIONS

Below is an overview of legal and ethical guidelines that will impact members of the District's Board of Trustees when sharing information about the bond election to be held on May 7, 2022. These guidelines have been prepared and provided in cooperation with our Bond Counsel, McCall, Parkhurst & Horton L.L.P.

1. The District and its officials are responsible for informing the public about the bond measure and to encourage voter registration and participation. District resources **may** be used to satisfy this obligation.
2. Public funds, including District employees' time on the job, **may not** be used to promote or discourage the passage of this bond measure (referred to as "electioneering").
3. Because Board Members are elected, uncompensated representatives of the District, they have more flexibility with respect to electioneering than paid District employees.
4. Because the election has been called, each Board Member, when sitting at the dais and acting in an official capacity, must remain purely factual and refrain from advocating for or against the passage of the bond election. Though not identified as a clear violation of State law, Board Members should refrain from engaging in electioneering in District facilities to avoid accusations of impropriety.
5. As a Board Member, you can comfortably express your support for the bond measure (which includes asking citizens to vote "yes") while OFF campus (that is, not in District-owned facilities).
 - a. Board Members may display signs on property they own.
 - b. Board Members may attend community events and publicly advocate for the bond measure.
 - c. Board Members may talk to the media – radio/newspapers/television – and ask people to support the bond, so long as it does not occur on school property or at a school function. Additionally, Board Members can write "letters to the editor" and identify themselves as Board Members, even if the message supports the bond measure, so long as the publisher receives no consideration from the District for the publication. (Advertisements must be paid from private funds, which may be personal funds of the Board Member).
 - d. Likewise, Board Members may post to social media (including blogs, micro-blogs, networking sites, wikis, and photo/video sharing sites) but should do so off (and not otherwise utilizing) District-owned property. Board Members **may** want to add a disclaimer to personal email or social media postings: "Please note this message is personal, rather than official school district business, and was created using personally owned equipment and accounts."
 - e. Under no circumstances may District resources (including email accounts, laptops, printers, copiers, etc.) be utilized to produce or disseminate a message of advocacy.
6. Remember, factual information calls and those encouraging people to exercise their right to vote **do not** result in electioneering.

It is important the District lead an "information-only" effort; the District has a responsibility to inform all voters about the election but may not utilize District funds or resources to engage in electioneering. During bond elections, most complaints concern violations involving improper use of public resources for advocacy campaigns. This is a direct violation of election law.

CONTACT PERSON

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