



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 January 20, 2026, 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 appointment by Hidalgo County Judge Richard F. Cortez of Irma Garcia to the South Texas ISD Board of Directors for the unexpired term of Hidalgo County At-Large position.
9. Administer Oath of Office for newly appointed Board member.
10. Public Hearing: 2025 Federal Report Card and Texas Academic Performance Report.
11. Awards & Recognitions.
 - A. Recognition of South Texas ISD Board of Directors in honor of School Board Recognition Month.
 - B. Swearing in of STISD's Police Officer/K9 Handler
12. 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.
13. *Action: Review and act on the December 2, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.
14. *Action: Review and act on the December 10, 2025 Board Special Called Meeting Minutes.
15. Finance & Operations Committee - Noel Garza, D.D.S. and Doug E. Buchanan, 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 to South Texas ISD Rising Scholars Academy in the amount of \$1,000.00 from Mr. Cesar A. Gonzalez and Ms. Inez M. Leal for the Athletic Department.
 2. Donation to South Texas ISD Health Professions in the amount of \$40.00 from Krisha Danae Brister for the Chess Club.
 3. Donation to South Texas ISD Science Academy of a Conductor Podium from Melhart Music Center with an estimated value of \$548.00 for Band and Choir events.
 - D. Action: Review and accept Financial Statements & Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants, South Texas Independent School District/South Texas Independent School District Public Facilities Corporation, for the year that ended August 31, 2025.
 1. Annual Financial Report
 - E. *Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:
 1. Payment application #15 to Gerlach Builders, LLC in the amount of \$315,520.59 for the Mercedes Athletic Fields project.
 2. Payment application #2 (final) to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$8,100.00 for the Medical Professions Portable Building.

3. Payment application #2 (final) to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$11,400.00 for the Preparatory Academy Portable project.
 4. Payment application #13 to Holchemont, LTD in the amount of \$4,152.66 for the Edinburg Athletic Fields project.
 5. Payment application #6 to Herrcon in the amount of \$231,591.00 for the Science Academy CTE Expansion project.
- F. *Action: Review and act on the following requisition(s):
1. Requisition #138003 to Magazine Subscriptions in the amount of \$3,341.80 for the purchase of magazines for Medical Professions.
 2. Requisition #138217 to Follett Content Solutions in the amount of \$2,175.93 for the purchase of books for Biblioteca las Americas.
 3. Requisition #139144 to Barnes and Noble in the amount of \$2,365.20 for the purchase of books for Gateway to the World.
 4. Requisition #139169 to Follett Content Solutions in the amount of \$1,081.83 for the purchase of books for Gateway to the World.
 5. Requisition #139184 to Follett Content Solutions in the amount of \$1,991.68 for the purchase of books for Biblioteca las Americas.
16. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee - Sandra Garza Ochoa, Ph.D. and Sue Ann Villarreal, Co-Chairs
- A. *Report on the 2025 Federal Report Card.
 - B. *Report on 2024 Texas Academic Performance Report.
 - C. *Action: Review and act on the proposed action to update course codes under the AP Capstone Diploma Program.
 - D. *Action: Review and act on the approval of the addition of new CTE Course.
17. Buildings and Grounds Committee - E. Larry Cantu and David Suarez, Co-Chairs
- A. Report on the following projects:
 1. Athletic Fields
 2. CTE Automotive Expansion at Science Academy
 - B. Action: Review and act on approving additional projects to the 2025-2026 Capital Improvements, and approving Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. as the architect of record for those projects.
 - C. Action: Review and act on accepting the Science Academy Athletic Fields and Concession Stand/Restroom project as substantially complete.
 - D. Action: Review and act on accepting the Health Professions Concession Stand/Restroom project as substantially complete.
18. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee - Abiel J. Cantú and Oscar Salinas, Co-Chairs
- A. Report on Resolution Regarding Senate Bill 11 Period of Prayer and Reading of the Bible or Other Religious Text.
 - B. Action: Review and act on TASB (LOCAL) Policy Update 126.
19. Community & Governmental Relations Committee - Ruth Villarreal and Zach Zamora, Co-Chairs
- A. *Report: Update regarding the current marketing campaign and future possibilities for student recruitment.

- B. Report on Enrollment Process for 2026-2027 School Year.
- 20. 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. 2026 National High School Chess Championship, March 27-29, 2026, in Chicago, IL.
 - 2. TSA National Competition, June 22-26, 2026, in Washington D.C.
 - C. District Reports
 - 1. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 - a. *Report on resignations and retirements of professional staff.
 - b. *Report on professional vacancies.
 - 2. Executive Director for Student Support
 - a. *Enrollment and Attendance Report.
 - b. *Action: Review and act on proposed admission qualifications for students and campus target populations for 2026-2027 school year.
 - c. 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. Executive Director for Academic Excellence
 - a. Report on Curriculum, Instruction and Assessments & Bilingual/ESL Program.
 - 5. Chief of Police
 - a. Report on Safety and Security.
 - b. Action: Review and act on accepting the K-9.org grant for one Narcotics Detection K9 for the South Texas ISD Police Department.
- 21. **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. District Student Wellness Specialist

2. Discussion and possible action to approve employee permission for 3rd party employment as part-time lecturer (K.L.).
22. 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. District Student Wellness Specialist
 2. Consideration and possible action to approve employee permission for 3rd party employment as part-time lecturer (K.L.).
23. 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
January 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Crystal Solis

For the Board of Directors