



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 March 31, 2026, beginning at 6:00 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. Awards & Recognitions.
 - A. Recognition of Health Professions, Medical Professions, Rising Scholars Academy, Science Academy and World Scholars for being designated Apple Distinguished Schools for the 2026-2029 program term.
9. 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.
10. *Action: Review and act on the February 23, 2026 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes.
11. *Action: Review and act on the February 24, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.
12. *Action: Review and act on the March 10, 2026 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes.
13. *Action: Review and act on the March 11, 2026 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes.
14. *Action: Review and act on the March 12, 2026 Special Called Board Meeting Minutes.
15. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee — Sandra Garza Ochoa, Ph.D. and Sue Ann Villarreal, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Action: Review and act on the approval of District Curriculum Design and Enhancement for Teachers.
 - B. *Action: Review and act on the approval of the addition of new Personal Financial Literacy Course.
 - C. *Action: Review and act on the approval of the addition of AVID courses to Virtual Academy.
 - D. *Action: Review and act on the approval of the addition of new courses to the STC DEPSA program.
 - E. *Action: Review and act on the approval of the addition/modification of CTE Course.
16. Buildings and Grounds Committee — E. Larry Cantu and David Suarez, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Report on the following projects:
 1. CTE Automotive Expansion at Science Academy
 - B. *Action: Review and act on approving the ranking for RFQ 27-007 Architectural Services.
17. Finance & Operations Committee — Doug E. Buchanan and Noel Garza, D.D.S., 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 from PTSO to the Medical Professions Senior Class in the amount of \$500.
 - D. *Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:

1. Payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$17,325.00 for the Special Programs Building project.
 2. Payment application #1 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$11,970.00 for the Maintenance Building project.
 3. Payment application #7 to Herrcon in the amount of \$105,578.27 for the Science Academy CTE Automotive Expansion project.
 4. Payment application #16 to Gerlach Builders in the amount of \$292,354.51 for the Mercedes Athletic Fields project.
 5. Payment application #10 (final) to TelePro Communications in the amount of \$141,747.45 for the Audio/Video Intercom project.
 6. Payment application #14 (final) to Holchemont, LTD in the amount of \$191,781.18 for the Edinburg Athletic Fields project.
- E. *Action: Review and act on the following requisition(s):
1. Requisition #140681 to Sames Bastrop in the amount of \$62,245.15 for the purchase of a Ford F250 Crew Cab truck for the Olmito Maintenance dept.
 2. Requisition #141026 to Follett Content Solution in the amount of \$2,469.78 for the purchase of books for Gateway to the World library.
 3. Requisition #141052 to Barnes and Noble in the amount of \$639.60 for the purchase of books for Biblioteca Las Americas library.
 4. Requisition #141063 to Barnes and Noble in the amount of \$537.32 for the purchase of books for Biblioteca Las Americas library.
 5. Requisition #141070 to Barnes and Noble in the amount of \$599.50 for the purchase of books for Gateway to the World library.
 6. Requisition #141206 to Barnes and Noble in the amount of \$350.45 for the purchase of books for Gateway to the World library.
- F. *Action: Review and act on extending RFQ 26-006 Independent Auditor with Burton McCumber Longoria, LLC or authorizing administration to advertise for an RFQ.
18. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee — Abiel J. Cantú and Oscar Salinas, Co-Chairs
- A. *Action: Review and act on the Memorandum of Understanding related to the Hidalgo County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program for the 2026-2027 school year.
19. Community & Governmental Relations Committee — Zach Zamora and Sasha Crane, Co-Chairs
- A. *Report: Update regarding the current marketing campaign and future possibilities for student recruitment.
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. Apple Education Event, April 12-14, 2026, in San Diego, CA.
 2. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl, April 30 – May 4, 2026, in Leesburg, VA.
 3. 2026 ASCD Annual Conference, June 28 – July 1, 2026, in Orlando, FL.
- 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 the Teacher Incentive Allotment.
 - d. *Action: Review and Act on approving the request for New Professional Position(s) for the 2026-2027 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for the following:
 1. Professional:
 1. Teacher (5)
 2. Non-Professional:
 1. Special Education Classroom Aide (1)
 2. Secretary/Receptionist
 3. Bus Driver/Custodian (6)
 4. Custodian (3)
 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. 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.
- D. *Action: Review and act on the following Board travel:
 1. TASB Summer Leadership Institute, June 10-13, 2026, in San Antonio, TX.
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 2026-2027 school year.
 - a. Educational Disgnostician Co-Op

- b. School Psychologist Co-Op
 2. Discussion on Search for Superintendent of Schools.
 3. Board interviews superintendent applicant.
 - B. Sections 551.071, 551.074 and 551.0821, Consultation with attorney
 1. Consultation with legal counsel regarding pending or threatened litigation.
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 2026-2027 school year.
 - a. Educational Diagnostician Co-Op
 - b. School Psychologist Co-Op
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

March 25, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Crystal Solis,

For the Board of Directors