



Minutes of Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors South Texas ISD

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of South Texas ISD was held May 26, 2026, beginning at 5:30 PM in the Central Office Teaching and Learning Center, 7001 E. Expressway 83, Mercedes, Texas 78570.

1. Welcome.

Mr. Henry LeVrier, Board President, welcomed guests, staff and fellow Board members.

2. Board Meeting called to order.

The meeting was called to order by Henry LeVrier, Board President at approximately 5:58 p.m., at which time he was assured by Superintendent Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., that notices of the meeting were posted properly according to the laws of Texas and that a quorum of the Board was present.

The following board members were present:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Andrea E. Gonzales-Loya	Raymondville
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
David Suarez	Weslaco
Rick Villarreal, DDS	Rancho Viejo
Sue Ann Villarreal	Raymondville

The following Board members were absent:

David Briones	La Feria
Sasha Crane	McAllen

Irma Garcia	McAllen
Noel Garza, DDS	Mission
Rodolfo “Rudy” Ramirez	Edinburg
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Oscar Salinas	Edinburg
Ruth Villarreal	Mission
Zach Zamora	Mission

The following staff members were present:
 Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.
 Carmen Noriega

3. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

Board member, Doug Buchanan, led the Pledges of Allegiance and the District’s Call to Action.

4. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

5. Hearing on Proposal of Non-renewal of Dr. Michele Guajardo.

Board President Henry LeVrier informed the Board that the hearing concerning the proposed non-renewal of Dr. Michele Guajardo has been canceled as per legal counsel.

6. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

The Board did not receive any requests to address the Board of Directors on any agenda topics.

7. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

The Board received the following requests for Public Audience for non-agenda topics. However, the individuals were not present at the meeting:

- Hector Rodriguez – STISD Grades assigned for dual enrollment
- Tamara Rodriguez – STISD Grades assigned for dual enrollment
- Glenn Romero – STISD Grades assigned for dual enrollment

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.

A motion was made by E. Larry Cantu, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

9. *Action: Review and act on the April 29, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

10. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee — Andrea E. Gonzales Loya and David Briones, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Review and Act on Proposed Action—Waiver for Professional Development 2026-2027.

Approved with the consent agenda.

11. Buildings and Grounds Committee — Jaime Solis and Rick Villarreal, D.D.S., Co-Chairs
 - A. *Report on the following projects:
 1. CTE Automotive Expansion at Science Academy
 2. Intercom Replacement at Preparatory Academy and World Scholars

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Review and act on approving the option A layout for the Medical Professions Athletic Fields project.

Approved with the consent agenda.

12. Finance & Operations Committee — Adrian Garcia and Rudy Ramirez, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Report on the district's Public Notice to Apply for 2026-2027 ESSA Federal Grant Funding.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on removing assets from district inventory.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. *Action: Review and act on approving the following donations:

1. Donation in the amount of \$750 from the TASO Rio Grande Chapter Softball to Health Professions' General Account.
2. Donation in the amount of \$500 from Dr. Joey & Sandra Cadena to World Scholars for a graduating senior.
3. Donation in the amount of \$2,000 from Laura Gomez to Science Academy for SkillsUSA related activities.
4. Donation of items valued at \$10,000 from Samsung Evolve for Tomorrow Technology to Science Academy for the Practicum in Engineering Program.

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. *Action: Review and act on the following payment applications:

1. Payment application #8 to Herrcon in the amount of \$169,054.78 for the Science Academy CTE Expansion project.
2. Payment application #9 to Herrcon in the amount of \$106,099.32 for the Science Academy CTE Expansion project.
3. Payment application #9 to Gomez Mendez Saenz, Inc. in the amount of \$648.37 for the Restrooms/Concessions at the Mercedes Athletic Fields project.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. *Action: Review and act on approving the resolution updating the District Investment Officers according to policy CDA (local), adding Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa as an Investment Officer.

Approved with the consent agenda.

G. *Action: Review and act on approving the Bank Resolution to update check signers on the STISD General Operating, Non-Operating, Payroll, Health Insurance, Debt Service, and Gifts & Donations accounts.

Approved with the consent agenda.

13. Policy, Planning, Projects & Partnerships Committee — Robert J. Lerma and Oscar Salinas, Co-Chairs

14. 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.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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. Flores
6. Science Academy - E. Gutierrez
7. Virtual Academy - E. Gutierrez

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on the following out of district student/staff travel:

1. Esports Series Championship 2026, June 25-28, 2026, in Orlando, FL.
2. National Association of School Nurses 2026 Stronger Together Conference, June 29–July 2, 2026, in Las Vegas, NV.
3. Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) Legislative Advocacy Conference, July 7-9, 2026, in Washington, D.C.
4. ASBO International Annual Conference & Expo, October 14-16, 2026 in Pittsburg, PA.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. District Reports

1. Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
 - a. *Report on resignations and retirements of professional staff.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- b. *Report on professional vacancies.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- c. *Report on local certification through the District of Innovation Plan.

Approved with the consent agenda.

2. Executive Director for Student Support
 - a. *Enrollment and Attendance Report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- b. *Report on Student Support Services.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 3. Executive Director for Special Programs
 - a. *Report on Special Programs.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- b. *Report on the South Texas Tri-County Special Education Co- Op.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- c. *Action: Review and act on the Regional Day School Programs for the Deaf with McAllen ISD Shared Services Agreement for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 4. Chief of Police
 - a. *Report on Safety and Security.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the following Board travel:
 - 1. TASA|TASB txEDCON, October 8-11, 2026, in Houston, TX.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on Resolution calling for South Texas ISD Board of Directors Elections, November 3, 2026.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on May 29, 2026 at 6:06 p.m. in 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 Vice-President, E. Larry Cantu served to record the minutes of the closed 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. Counselor
 - b. Teacher(s)
- B. Sections 551.071, 551.074 and 551.0821, Consultation with attorney
 - 1. Consultation with legal counsel regarding pending or threatened litigation.

The Board ended the executive session at 6:08 p.m.

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 2026-2027 school year.
 - a. Counselor
 - b. Teacher(s)

Dr. Tony Lara, Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of Catherine Lara as Counselor (11 months), Jocelyn Woods as Teacher (10 months), Kimberly Lucio as Teacher (10 months), Eliazar Patino as Teacher (10 months), Elizabeth Flores as Teacher (10 months), Jennifer Garza as Teacher (10 months), Joel Leal as Teacher (10 months), Vianey Salazar as Teacher (10 months), Monica Blum as Teacher (10 months), Celia Galindo as Teacher (10 months), Desirae Pence as Teacher (10 months), Chelsea Dwiggins as Teacher (10 months), Elisa Perales as Teacher (10 months), Kenneth Arredondo as Teacher (10 months), and Analisa Garcia as Teacher (10 months).

A motion was made by Doug Buchanan, seconded by Abiel J. Cantú, approving the recommendation of professional staff as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2. Possible action on Proposal of Non-renewal of Dr. Michele Guajardo.

The Board did not take any action on this item.

18. Adjournment.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.