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**South
Texas ISD**

RIO GRANDE VALLEY | GRADES 6-12

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 August 4, 2026, beginning at 7:00 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 7:00 p.m., at which time he was assured by Superintendent Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa., 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:

David Briones	La Feria
Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Sasha Crane	McAllen
Irma Garcia	McAllen
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Noel Garza, DDS	Mission
Sylvia Sánchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Delma Pedraza	Weslaco
Rodolfo "Rudy" Ramirez	Edinburg
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Oscar Salinas	Edinburg
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
David Suarez	Weslaco
Rick Villarreal, DDS	Rancho Viejo
Ruth Villarreal	Mission
Sue Ann Villarreal	Raymondville

The following Board members were absent:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Andrea E. Gonzales-Loya	Raymondville
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Zach Zamora	Mission

The following staff members were present:

Sandra Garza Ochoa, Ph.D.	Ramon Longoria
Lissa Frausto	Carmen Noriega
Amanda Odom	
Chief Steven Cortez	
Frank Trevino	
Brenda De La Garza, Ed.D.	

3. Pledges of Allegiance.

Mr. Atinеш Lal, Veteran and Science Academy Teacher, led the Pledges of Allegiance.

4. District Call to Action.

Board Member, Abiel J. Cantú, led the District Call to Action.

5. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

6. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

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

7. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

The Board did not receive any requests to address the Board of Directors for any non-agenda topics.

1. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on August 4, 2026, at 7:10 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 Secretary, E. Larry Cantu served to record the minutes of te closed session to discuss the following:**

- A. 551.074, 551.071 Personnel Matters and consultation with school attorney regarding Personnel Matters: Closed Meeting

1. Retroactive recommendation for professional staff for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - a. Teacher(s)
2. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - a. Chief Financial Officer – Federal Programs
 - b. Director of CCMR and Assessments
 - c. Director of Fine Arts
 - d. Teacher(s)
3. Government Code Sections 551.074 and 551.071 Consultation with school attorney for deliberation regarding certified employee(s).
- B. Consultation with attorney regarding internal audit findings relating to District, including the legal implications of those findings. Tex. Gov't Code § 551.071.
- C. Deliberation regarding a public school student where personally identifiable student information will necessarily be revealed. Tex. Gov't Code § 551.0821.
- D. Consultation with attorney regarding Level III grievance filed by M.G. and any related legal and personnel matters,. Tex. Gov't Code §§ 551.071 and 551.074.

The Board ended the executive session at 10:06 p.m.

2. 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 retroactive recommendation for professional staff for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - a. Teacher(s)

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

2. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - a. Chief Financial Officer – Federal Programs
 - b. Director of CCMR and Assessments
 - c. Director of Fine Arts
 - d. Teacher(s)

A motion was made by Dr. Sylvia Sánchez Garza, seconded by Dr. Noel Garza, approving the recommendation of professional staff as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Deliberation and possible action to render a finding that good cause did not exist for the resignation of J.S.C. and M.R.G., certified classroom teachers, who submitted after the statutory resignation deadline, and to authorize the Superintendent to file a written complaint for abandonment of contract with the

Texas Education Agency for review by the State Board for Educator Certification, pursuant to Texas Education Code Section 21.210 and 19 Texas Administrative Code Section 249.14.

A motion was made by David Briones, seconded by Oscar Salinas, finding that good cause did not exist for the resignation of J.S.C. and M.R.G., certified classroom teachers, who submitted after the statutory resignation deadline, and to authorize the Superintendent to file a written complaint for abandonment of contract with the Texas Education Agency for review by the State Board for Educator Certification, pursuant to Texas Education Code Section 21.210 and 19 Texas Administrative Code Section 249.14. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Discussion and possible action regarding internal audit findings.

The Board did not take any action on this item.

C. Discussion and possible action regarding the Level III grievance filed by MG.

A motion was made by Henry LeVrier, seconded by authorizing Attorney, Mayor Javier Villalobos, to proceed as discussed in executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Action: 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 Abiel J. Cantú, seconded by Jaime Solis, approving the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. *Action: Review and act on the June 23, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.

Approved with the consent agenda.

5. Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Committee — Andrea E. Gonzales Loya and David Briones, Co-Chairs

A. *Report on 2026 Advanced Placement scores.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Report on the 2026-2027 Schedule of Formal Grade Reporting.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Report on CTE Programs of Study for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on the administrators to hold ARDs for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on the appointment of Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC) Members for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 6. Buildings and Grounds Committee — Jaime Solis and Rick Villarreal, D.D.S., Co-Chairs
 - A. *Report on Construction Budget*

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. Report on the following projects:
 - 1. CTE Automotive Expansion project
 - 2. Edinburg Intercom Replacement project
 - 3. District HVAC Upgrades
 - 4. Mercedes Complex Cafeteria Renovation/Expansion

David Monreal, GMS Architects was present and provided an update on the construction projects as listed.

- C. Action: Review and act on the conditional substantial completion of the Science Academy CTE Automotive Expansion project.

A motion was made by Jaime Solis, seconded by E. Larry Cantu, approving the conditional substantial completion of the Science Academy CTE Automotive Expansion project. The motion passed unanimously.

- 7. Finance & Operations Committee — Adrian Garcia and Rudy Ramirez, Co-Chairs
 - A. *Report on Revenues and Expenditures.*

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Report on school district investments.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

1. Donations in the amount of \$1,992.04 from Widdy Up, Inc. for the fundraiser payout to the Medical Professions Senior Class of 2027.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. *Action: Review and act on the following budget amendment(s):

1. General Fund (199)
2. Project Advance Grant (289)
3. Shared Services Arrangement (313)
4. Special Education (437)
5. MacKenzie Scott Donation (485)
6. Health Insurance Fund (753)

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. *Action: Review and act on approving 13 paychecks for new employees.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- H. *Action: Review and act on 2026-2027 school lunch and breakfast prices.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- I. *Action: Review and act on approving a resolution designating the Superintendent as an officer to calculate the tax rate.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- J. *Action: Review and act on extending RFP 26-012 Workers' Compensation.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- K. *Action: Review and act on setting a date for a public meeting to discuss the 2026-2027 budget and proposed tax rate to be published on the notice of the public hearing.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- L. Action: Review and act on approval of RFP 27-008 Security Guard Services.

A motion was made by Rudy Ramirez, seconded by Dr. Noel Garza, approving RFP 27-008 Security Guard Services: MLG Protection Services for two years. The motion passed unanimously.

- M. Action: Review and act on Soliciting Proposals for a Voluntary Personal Importation Drug Savings Program.

A motion was made by Dr. Noel Garza, seconded by Irma Garcia, approving Soliciting Proposals for a Volunatry Personal Importation Drug Savings Program. The motion passed unanimously.

- N. Action: Review and act on approval of RFP 27-017 Construction Manager at Risk.

A motion was made by Jaime Solis, seconded by E. Larry Cantu, approving RFP 27-017 Construction Manager at Risk. The motion passed unanimously.

- O. Action: Review and act on rejecting RFP 27-011 Unemployment Compensation.

A motion was made by Rudy Ramirez, seconded by Dr. Noel Garza, rejecting RFP 27-011 Unemployment Compensation. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- A. *Action: Review and act on the 2026-2027 STISD Student Code of Conduct.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Review and act on approving the 2026-2027 Physician's Standing Orders.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Action: Review and act on the Memorandum of Understanding related to the Cameron County Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. *Action: Review and act on proposed course additions for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on Policy Update 127.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. *Action: Review and act on revision to Policy EIC (LOCAL) Academic Achievement: Class Ranking.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. *Action: Review and act on revisions to Policy DEC (LOCAL) Compensation and Benefits: Leaves and Absences.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- 9. Community & Governmental Relations Committee — Sasha Crane and Eduardo Rogriguez, Co-Chairs

- A. *Report: Update regarding the current marketing campaign and future possibilities for student recruitment.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- B. *Action: Discussion and possible action to consider and approve the Superintendent's recommendation regarding the designation of the remaining non-business Public Information Act days for Public Information Act requests during calendar year 2026.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. **Report on the Inaugural STISD Back-2-School Kick Off Events**

Amanda Odom reported on the Inagural STISD Back-2-School Kick Off Events at all campuses.

10. Superintendent's Reports:

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. District Reports

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- b. *Action: Review and act on the appointment of Teacher Appraisers for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- c. *Action: Review and Act on approving the request for New Non-Professional Position(s) for the 2026-2027 school year and the Announcement of Vacancy for the following:
 1. Non-Professional position(s):
 1. District Grounds Supervisor
 2. Master Electrician

Approved with the consent agenda.

2. Executive Director for Student Support
 - a. *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 an amendment to the Shared Services Agreement MOU.

Approved with the consent agenda.

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

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. *Report on Superintendent's First 30 Days.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- D. Report on projected 2026-2027 Enrollment.

Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa, Superintendent, provided an update on the 2026-2027 Projected Enrollment.

- E. Report on 2025–2026 TELPAS Results.

Dr. Sandra Garza Ochoa, reported on the 2025-2026 TELPAS results.

- F. Action: Review and act on Resolution nominating a candidate to the seat on the Board of Directors of the Cameron County Appraisal District.

A motion was made by Jaime Solis, seconded by E. Larry Cantu, nomination Mr. Frutoso M. Gomez, Jr., to the vacant seat on the Board of Directors of the Cameron County Appraisal District.

11. Adjournment.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.