

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 Thursday, January 23, 2020, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Biblioteca Las Americas Lecture Hall, 300 Med High Drive, Mercedes, Texas.

1. Welcome.

Doug Buchanan, Board President, welcomed the guests, staff and fellow Board members.

2. Pledges of Allegiance & District Call to Action.

The pledges were led by Board member Jaime Solis.

3. Moment of Silence.

The Board held a moment of silence.

4. Board Meeting called to order.

The following board members were present:

Douglas E. Buchanan	Raymondville
Graciela Camargo	Weslaco
Eduardo L. "Larry" Cantu	Los Fresnos
Yolanda Cuellar	Progreso Lakes
Javier Farias	McAllen
Richard Fleming, MD	Mission
Adrian Garcia	Brownsville
Homero Garcia	Weslaco
Margarita Garcia	San Juan
Sylvia Sanchez Garza, Ph.D.	Edinburg
Hector Gonzales	Lyford
Henry LeVrier	Brownsville
Sylvia S. Lopez	Brownsville
Ramon Montalvo, III	Weslaco
Eduardo Roberto Rodriguez	Brownsville
Jaime R. Solis	Edinburg
Irma Perez-Treviño	Harlingen

Israel G. Quintanilla
Rick Villarreal, D.D.S.

Raymondville
Brownsville

The following Board members were absent:

Abiel J. Cantú	Raymondville
Martin Castillo, DC	Edinburg
Yolanda Kamel	McAllen
Robert J. Lerma	Brownsville
Rebecca Villarreal	Penitas

The following staff members were present:

Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.	Jeff Hembree
J.P. Villarreal	Marla R. Knaub
Sonia E. Rodriguez	Amanda Odom
Jaclyn Buelow	Rigo Olivarez
Efrain Garza	Ann Vickman
Harry Goette	Irma Castillo, Ed.D.
Ana Castro	Albert Tudon
Criselda Flores Rodriguez	

5. Awards & Recognitions.

A. Recognition of Junior High and High School Basketball Superintendent's Cup Champions.

On behalf of the school Board and administration, Amanda Odom recognized Junior High and High School Basketball Superintendent's Cup Champions.

B. Recognition of South Texas ISD Board of Directors in honor of School Board Recognition Month.

As part of Texas Board Recognition Month, board members were presented with tokens of appreciation by each school principal and the superintendent honoring them for their leadership, work and dedication to South Texas ISD. The Board was also serenaded by STPA's strings group.

6. 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 Mr. Gonzales, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

7. *Action: Review and act on the November 18 and December 11, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Board Meeting minutes were approved with the consent agenda.

8. Public Comments for Agenda Topics.

No one signed up to make public comments for agenda topics.

9. Public Audience for Non-Agenda Topics.

Grace Camargo, Board Member, addressed the board to introduce Koorosh Famitafreshi, new Executive Director for the Education Foundation of South Texas ISD.

Mr. & Mrs. Mario Flores, parents, addressed the board regarding an incident involving their daughter.

10. 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, 2019.

A. Annual Financial Report

Carr, Riggs & Ingram auditor, Aaron Rios, reported on the 2018-2019 school year audit. A report entitled Financial Statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accountant South Texas Independent School District was distributed, discussed, and accepted. Mr. Rios reported the financial statements in the report presented fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of South Texas Independent School District as of August 31, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position and where applicable, cashflows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In short, STISD received an unqualified report. Mr. Rios reported on a “significant deficiency” as noted on the audit report and answered board members’ questions.

A motion was made by Mr. A. Garcia, seconded by Mr. L. Cantu, approving the audit report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Policy & Curriculum - Becky Villarreal & Martin Castillo, DC, Co-Chairs

Mrs. Yolanda Cuellar reported on the following committee items:

A. *Review Policy Update 114, First Reading.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on renewing designee role for Deputy Superintendent, Jeff Hembree, as alternate approver in TEAL, the secure environment that replaces the current TEA Secure Environment (TEASE) security system.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. *Action: Review and act on approving Ms. Angela Villarreal, HST Teacher, to serve as the Lead for the State Committee developing the new innovative courses in Dental Science.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. *Action: Review and act on request from Mrs. Amanda Saucedo, bookkeeper, to use five days of personal leave to attend a church conference.

Approved with the consent agenda.

E. *Action: Review and act on announcement of vacancies for the 2020 summer programs.

Approved with the consent agenda.

F. Action: Review and act on the 2019-2020 District Improvement Plan (Final Reading).

A motion was made by Mrs. Cuellar, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, approving the 2019-2020 District Improvement Plan as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Action: Review and act on the following Proposed Actions:

1. Science Academy:

- a. New Courses: Art I Honors, Art II, Digital Art, Media I, Logic 1, Logic 2, Earth and Space Science
- b. Program of Academic Excellence via Externships (P.A.E.2)
- c. Summer@Brown Pre-College Program

A motion was made by Mrs. Cuellar, seconded by Mr. Solis, approving the Science Academy Proposed Actions for new course and programs as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. World Scholars:

- a. New Courses: Law Enforcement II, Court Systems and Practices, Robotics I and Robotics II
- b. UTSA Criminal Justice Summer Camp

A motion was made by Mrs. Cuellar, seconded by Mrs. Camargo, approving the World Scholars Proposed Actions for new courses and summer program as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Buildings & Grounds - Robert J. Lerma & Irma Perez Trevino, Co-Chairs

There were no agenda items under Buildings & Grounds.

13. Finance - Henry LeVrier & Eduardo R. Rodriguez, Co-Chairs

Mr. Henry LeVrier reported on the following committee items:

A. *Report on District Comparison of Revenues/Expenditures.

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Report on checks written since last report.

Approved with the consent agenda.

C. *Report on school district investments:

- 1. Investments owned by the district.
- 2. Investments held by Wilmington Trust for the South Texas ISD Public Facilities Corporation.

Approved with the consent agenda.

D. *Action: Review and act on proposed 2019-2020 budget calendar.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- E. *Action: Review and act on the following federal budget amendments for additional funds:
1. 2019-2020 Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAEP) Budget Amendment #1
 2. 2019-2020 Title I, Part A Regular Budget Amendment #1
 3. 2019-2020 Title I, Part C Migrant Budget Amendment #1
 4. 2019-2020 IDEA B Formula Budget Amendment #1
 5. 2019-2020 Perkins Career Technology Education Budget Amendment #1
 6. 2019-2020 Title II, Part A Teacher, Principal Training and Recruitment Budget Amendment #1
 7. 2019-2020 Title III, Part A English Language Learners Budget Amendment #1

Approved with the consent agenda.

- F. *Action: Review and act on renaming the Director for Human Resources position to Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

Approved with the consent agenda.

- G. Action: Review and act on 2020 bond payments for School Facility Lease Revenue Qualified School Construction Bonds Taxable Series 2013.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Quintanilla, approving the 2020 bond payments for the School Facility Lease Revenue Qualified School Construction Bonds Taxable Series 2013 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- H. Action: Review and act on the following donations:

1. \$1,000 from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa to Preparatory Academy
2. \$10,970 from PSTO to Preparatory Academy
3. \$250 from YourCause to World Scholars
4. \$1,000 from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa to World Scholars
5. \$1,000 from Wonderful Giving to Science Academy
6. \$300 from Alandro Resources LLC to Science Academy
7. \$200 from Javier Perez-Innospec to Science Academy
8. \$150 from Improved Order of Red Men Nacoma Council #13 to Health Professions

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Gonzales, approving the \$1,000 donation from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa; \$10,970 from PSTO; \$250 from YourCause; \$1,000 from Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Ochoa; \$1,000 from Wonderful Giving; \$300 from Alandro Resources LLC; \$200 from Javier Perez-Innospec and \$150 from Improved Order of Red Men Nacoma Council #13 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Action: Review and act on Third-Party Administrator for 2020-2021.

A motion was made by Mr. LeVrier, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez, approving the FBS Benefits as the Third-Party Administrator for the 2020-2021 school year as recommended by the Administration. FBS Benefits is an approved vendor through Region 19 ESC/Allied State Coop. The motion passed with seven board members against (R. Montalvo, J. Farias, H. Garcia, G. Camargo, J. Solis, S. Garza, and R. Fleming).

Board member Jaime Solis questioned how was the TPA handled. He suggested perhaps having an employee insurance committee.

14. Superintendent's Report - Marco Antonio Lara, Jr., Ed.D.

A. *Campus Reports

1. Preparatory Academy - A. Castro
2. Rising Scholars Academy - C. Rodriguez
3. World Scholars - E. Garza
4. Medical Professions - H. Goette
5. Health Professions - B. Heater, Ph.D.
6. Science Academy - I. Castillo, Ed.D.
7. Attendance Reports - J. Hembree

Approved with the consent agenda.

B. *Action: Review and act on student/staff members to attend the following:

1. UIL Student Congress State Meet, January 13-15, 2020, Austin, TX
2. PASF State Officers Meeting, January 31, 2020, San Antonio, TX
3. University of Houston Mathematics contest, January 31-February 2, 2020, Houston, TX
4. Texas Brain Bee Competition, February 7-8, 2020, Houston, TX
5. Skills USA & San Antonio Livestock Show Competition, February 20-23, 2020, San Antonio, TX
6. Junior Class Educational Field Trip - USS Lexington, February 21, 2020, Corpus Christi, TX

7. Sophomore Class Educational Field Trip - San Antonio Museum of Art, February 28, 2020, San Antonio, TX
8. University Visit/Tour to UTSA, Our Lady of the Lake University and University of the Incarnate Word, February 28, 2020, San Antonio, TX
9. 2020 Lead Conference, February 28-March 2, 2020, Chicago, IL
10. BPA State Leadership Competition, March 3-8, 2020, Dallas, TX
11. FIRST Robotics Competition District Event, March 6-8, 2020, Del Rio, TX
12. FIRST Robotics Competition District Event, March 13-15, 2020, New Braunfels, TX
13. Pan American Student Forum (PASF) State Convention, March 19-22, 2020, San Antonio, TX
14. The Irving Marathon, March 27-29, 2020, Irving, TX
15. Skills USA Conference & Competition, April 2-5, 2020, Corpus Christi, TX
16. Prepare: Educating Latinos for the Future of America Conference, April 23-24, 2020, Las Vegas, NV
17. BPA National Leadership Conference, May 6-11, 2020, Washington, DC
18. German-American Partnership Program, June 5-27, 2020, Germany
19. University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio's BEAT Academy Summer Program, June 7-14, 2020, San Antonio, TX

Approved with the consent agenda.

- C. Action: Review and act on legal services contract with Walsh, Gallegos, Trevino, Russo & Kyle PC or authorize the administration to advertise for legal services qualifications.

A motion was made by Mr. Rodriguez, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, approving the renewal of legal services contract with Walsh, Gallegos, Trevino, Russo & Kyle PC with an increase of 5% on their hourly rate. The motion passed unanimously.

15. *Correspondence.

- A. Thank you note from Dr. Sylvia Sanchez Garza's family.

Approved with the consent agenda.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board of Directors met on January 23, 2020 at 8:35 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 Presiding Officer appointed Mrs. Yolanda Cuellar 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 2019-2020 school year.
 - a. Teacher Tutors
 - b. Assistant Principal
 - c. Accountant
2. Recommendation of professional staff for the 2020 summer programs.
 - a. Head Teachers, Coordinators and sponsors for summer programs
3. Summative Evaluation of Superintendent's job performance.
 - a. STISD - Superintendent contract and fringe benefits

The Board of Directors ended the executive session at 9:37 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 2019-2020 school year.
 - a. Teacher Tutors
 - b. Assistant Principal
 - c. Accountant

Dr. Marco A. Lara, Jr., Superintendent of Schools, recommended the employment of the teacher tutors found on agenda page 285 and the employment of Magdalena Guzman (11 month) as Assistant Principal and Parthkumar Naik (12 month contract) as an accountant for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

Dr. Lara also recommended the employment of professional staff for the 2020 summer programs as listed on agenda page 287.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzales, seconded Mr. Solis, approving the Superintendent's recommendation to hire professional staff for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year and the 2020 summer programs as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Action: Review and act on recommendation of professional staff for the 2020 summer programs.
 - a. Head Teachers, Coordinators and sponsors for summer programs

Action was taken with 17.A.1.

3. Action: Review and act on Summative Evaluation of Superintendent's job performance.

a. Action: STISD - Superintendent contract and fringe benefits

A motion was made by Mrs. Camargo, seconded by Mr. H. Garcia, approving Dr. Marco Antonio Lara, Jr.'s, Superintendent of Schools, Summative Evaluation for his job performance; extending the Superintendent's employment contract for one additional year, increasing his annual salary by eight percent and benefits to remain the same. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board Officers will meet with Dr. Lara and will share the evaluation comments.

18. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Mr. Gonzales, seconded by Mr. Solis, adjourning the board meeting at 9:37 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.